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07102



*News 5 m.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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STATEMENT BY KENNETH A. GIBSON ON THE END  
TO THE UNREST IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

*En una situacion tal como la que hemos experimentado durante los ultimos dias, es siempre la mayoria de la ciudadania la que constituye el factor estabilizador. En este caso y la comprension de la vasta mayoria*  
In a situation such as we have experienced over the last few days, it is always the majority of the citizens which are the most stabilizing factor. In this case, I am particularly proud of the cooperation and understanding of the vast majority of the Hispanic people.

*de llenos de querrelas legitimas, los 70,000 Hispanos de Newark*  
Faced with legitimate grievances, the approximately 70,000 Hispanic people refrained from participating in any acts of civil disorders.

*yo hablo por mi mismo*  
Speaking for myself, and I am certain the other citizens of the City of Newark, I express a sincere feeling of gratitude for the general calm which prevailed.

Even the minority of Hispanic People who did participate in one way or another in the disorders, have now, for the most part, come to understand that their legitimate grievances shall not fall on deaf ears as long as I am Mayor of this City.

A Mayor of a city, in bringing the situation back to normal, would be helpless without the cooperation of certain key departments within his Administration. The Human Rights Commission, under the leadership of Daniel W. Blue, worked around the clock to receive com-

add one

plaints and replace truth for rumor in the minds of hundreds of people. This is in addition to their on-the-scene activities to help bring about a better understanding in a trying time.

Certainly, the work of our Fire Department, operating under Director John Caufield, was nothing less than heroic. Knowing the possibility that they could have and did sustain injuries, they put their job above personal concern.

The orders and instructions given to the Police Department by Director Hubert Williams, were extremely sensitive and showed a great concern for not inflaming the situation while securing the health, welfare and safety of nearly 400,000 people.

The Sanitation Department, under the direction of Samuel Friscia, geared-up its operation to do a commendable job in minimizing the negative visual remnants of the disorders.

Every Newark citizen should understand that the Prosecutor's office will be asked to investigate any and all complaints made by citizens against the police. Conversely, both firemen and policemen were injured and we have asked the Prosecutor to investigate these incidents as well. Moreover, we have also asked the Prosecutor's office to conduct a complete and thorough investigation of the sparking incident which occurred on Sunday, September 1, 1974.

We are not dumping this situation in the lap of the Prosecutor without giving him a commitment of full cooperation from the Mayor's Office and the other agencies and departments of City government which can be of assistance. I say unequivocally, let us have a thorough and just investigation and let the chips fall where they may.

add two

I sincerely appeal to all Newark citizens who have any information which will be of use in conducting this investigation, to turn that information over to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office (961-7400) or Daniel Blue, Director of the Newark Human Rights Commission (733-8065). *Concedo di Emergenza 622 7350.* If we follow this procedure, we have a better chance of bringing anyone who has done wrong, to a full accounting of their actions. Any other course of action would just create more to be investigated.

We must all recognize that the last few days have not been helpful to the image of Newark. Since we live here and raise our children here, we must do all that we can to get this behind us and move toward the more basic issues that deal with improving the quality of life in our city.

I continue to stand by my position that I have been unable and unwilling to put a value on human life. I will always consider human life vastly more important than property. Property can be replaced; but a human life cannot. This should be reasonable to any reasonable man. As long as I have a conscience and the basic respect for humanity, and I trust this would be for the rest of my life, I know this will be my position.

Now is the time for all Newark citizens to come together, not by statements or speeches, but by hard work. We must all put our shoulders to the plow and turn over the soil of negative social conditions and plant the seeds from which can grow a better community. We must work to improve our conditions in the area of housing, education, employment, health services, care for our senior citizens, and to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and concern.

-MORE-



Kenneth A. Gibson  
MAYOR  
CITY OF NEWARK

add three

With the nation facing a critical situation in the areas of inflation and recession, we must stand together for the sake of assuring that our basic needs will be attended to. Working together, we can do this.

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