

Hughes stands firm at tough post

By RICHARD O. SHAFER

Gov. Richard J. Hughes was a grim-faced, chain-smoking commander-in-chief yesterday determined to stamp out what he called "the criminal insurrection" in Newark of the last three days and nights.

In all his five-and-a-half years as Governor, the 57-year-old Democrat never has demonstrated the toughness of character and the firmness with which he has taken charge of restoring peace to the embattled city.

Words of praise for Hughes'

courageous words and firm, quick action in rushing state troopers and National Guardsmen to the riot-torn city were heard from many citizens who had listened to him on television.

"I never thought much about Hughes one way or another," said one man. "But I'm sold on him now. I think he's great."

STERN WARNING

A lawyer and a former judge, Hughes' deference and respect for law and order is reflected in his warnings

that the rioters who have swept through the city will meet swift and stern punishment.

"This is a criminal insurrection against society, hiding behind the shield of civil rights," he says.

"Society must be able to protect itself. And that means with all means with which society protects itself."

Hughes refuses to swallow the customary charges of police brutality that have grown out of the rioting.

Normally, the governor

is a rare blend of the bold and the cautious, the political pro and the governmental innovator, the friend of business and the ally of labor.

WITH ADDONIZIO

It was his decisive side that came to the fore this past week. He raced to Newark from the Governor's mansion at the height of Wednesday night's rioting and, with Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio, took personal charge of the small army of

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Hughes at command post shows toughness, firmness

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police and National Guardsmen summoned to cope with it.

Before his upset victory in 1961, Hughes was a man virtually unknown to his fellow New Jerseyans. In a whirlwind campaign, he defeated the nationally famous Republican candidate, President Eisenhower's labor secretary, James P. Mitchell.

The victory was a springboard to national prominence capped two weeks ago by his part in staging the Glassboro summit conference between President Johnson and Russian Premier Kosygin.

Hughes proved his great popularity in 1965 by winning re-election by the greatest margin in New Jersey history.

Hughes' main concern as governor has been to modernize New Jersey to conform to the needs of a popula-

tion that has grown by 2,500,000 people since 1940.

When he took office he found the state lagging far behind in adequate educational facilities, hospitals and other institutions and highways.

In the eyes of many, he committed political suicide by campaigning hard for new taxes with which to finance them. In 1963 he estimated New Jersey needed \$150,000,000 a year additional money with which to build them.

He encountered much rocky going with a conservative Republican Legislature and even with the Democratic Legislature he swept into office with him in his own re-election.

Although it has approved an unprecedented number of his programs and has been called the most productive in state history, his Democratic Legislature deserted

him when he demanded enactment of a state income tax to raise more money.

He settled for a three per cent sales tax, which he didn't want, as a compromise, but he had to get Republican help to have it enacted.

Hughes cites riot in plea for gun law

Gov. Richard J. Hughes said yesterday that the Newark rioting represented a "very good argument" for passage of a federal law controlling interstate traffic of guns.

Hughes said he was "shocked and disappointed" to learn that automatic weapons had been used by the rioters. He said at least one submachinegun had been seized and "there may be others."

The Governor cited the riots in his support of a federal law and the ease with which Lee Harvey Oswald purchased through the mails the rifle used to kill President John F. Kennedy in November 1963.

New Jersey has the nation's strictest gun control law requiring investigation and clearance of all prospective buyers of rifles and pistols.

WE'RE UP TO OUR EARS IN MATTRESSES...

