

1 A We started working this Friday morning. We had it
2 on the air Friday afternoon sometime. They kept repeating
3 it over and over again. I heard it a couple of times when
4 I got home Friday night.

5 They had another meeting with the mayor and some of the
6 ministers to go into the community the following day with
7 arm bands to urge the people to be calm and keep their
8 children in the house.

9 That Saturday morning we met -- well, I am getting ahead
10 of myself. We made these statements for the radio. This
11 is one of the things we did. Through Oliver Lofton, who
12 was the Governor's representative during this crisis, we
13 set up a meeting with the Governor Friday night and Saturday
14 morning. Of course, one of our concerns was that there
15 was no food available; that the services the people had
16 been getting had been almost totally destroyed, and with
17 the troops in town now there was a great deal of fear.
18 Many people never left their house.

19 Q What was the atmosphere like in Central Ward
20 Friday afternoon? Would you describe it for us?

21 A I was at the agency Friday morning on this kind of
22 stuff. We had our people out in the field. There was a
23 great deal of anxiety in the ward because all you had to
24 do was to look around and see things were destroyed, and
25 where were you going to get services from? This was a small

1 faction of the community involved in it, and the bulk of
2 the people were concerned about what kind of effect
3 that would have, what kind of response would they get from
4 this kind of situation.

5 I know there was a great deal of anxiety about this.

6 Again we left the agency about eight o'clock with the
7 understanding that we would be picked up and taken over to
8 meet with the Governor. We met with the Governor and we
9 talked to the Governor.

10 Q This is Friday evening?

11 A Friday evening, Saturday morning. The Governor
12 then promised to provide some food, and we wanted to make
13 sure that the food at places to be located at and have people
14 there to see that the food was distributed. We talked
15 about medical supplies, medical attention. Legal services
16 were provided for people with problems and complaints. We
17 thought that this was a valuable service to have during
18 that time.

19 Well, the Governor agreed on most of these things. We
20 left there about four o'clock Saturday morning. At eight
21 o'clock Saturday morning we met with the ministers who
22 appointed five members, five co-chairmen of a committee,
23 and we met with the Governor. We had a news conference on
24 what we were trying to do.

25 We went back to the agency after the meeting with the

1 Governor and put the program in operation, Operation Arm
2 Band. Three hundred people went out on the street urging
3 people to be calm and cool and to stay off the street. This
4 was Saturday. Needless to say Saturday was one of the
5 worst nights of all.

6 Q Before you get into that, it is eleven o'clock and
7 our reporter has been going for almost two hours, and we
8 would like to give both of you a ten-minute recess.

9 A (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

10 By Mr. Jaffe:

11 Q Mr. Still, I think when we left off we were talking
12 about what occurred on Saturday.

13 A On Saturday, as I have already indicated, we had
14 people go out into the community, about 300, to urge the
15 people to be cool and stay in the house and make sure they
16 knew where their children were. We had broadcast on the
17 radio programs Saturday also urging people to be calm and
18 to stay at home. We also made arrangements with some of
19 our staff to open the food centers for distribution the
20 next day. As a matter of fact, we had a meeting that night
21 with the Governor's counsel, Mr. Stanley Van Ness, and
22 Stan had promised that we would be able to get home that
23 night. He promised to give us an escort back home. He
24 found that he couldn't do that because they weren't letting
25 any vehicles at all in the Central Ward that night. We had

1 to stay at the agency.

2 But after I came down to the agency Saturday evening I
3 went home for a while to eat dinner and to talk with my
4 family. While I was home about seven-eight o'clock there
5 was a great deal of noise, like a battlefield really. I
6 could see they were firing at one of the buildings in my
7 area on Sixteenth Avenue across Belmont.

8 Q Who was "they"?

9 A This was the National Guard and the state troopers.
10 It might have been the police, too, but they were firing.
11 Which segment of them I don't know. There was machinegun
12 fire. There was automatic weapons fire, so I evidently
13 thought it must have been the National Guard. This kept
14 on sporadically. There would be a burst of maybe three
15 or four hundred shots. Then it would stop and another
16 burst. This went on for about an hour, hour and a half.

17 Finally some police officers went up on the roof and
18 nobody was on the roof. They had their helmets and held
19 their helmets up to indicate they were police officers.
20 The firing stopped on this building at that point. It
21 was shortly after that I was picked up and taken down,
22 picked up in a car from the Fourth Precinct and taken down
23 to UCC to meet with Stanley Van Ness.

24 At this meeting with him we worked out plans for the
25 food distribution the next day because this time -- as I

1 said, Friday the entire area had been so demolished there
2 was no place for food and milk and drugs. We made the
3 arrangements. We met up until about one o'clock or twelve
4 o'clock. I started home. I couldn't get there so I spent
5 the night in the agency. All during the night it was just
6 like a battlefield.

7 Q This is all through early Saturday?

8 A All through Saturday night and Sunday morning.

9 Q Was that the worst morning?

10 A That was the worst morning. That was the morning
11 when they deliberately tried to intimidate the community.

12 Q I couldn't hear that.

13 A That was the morning that the state troopers and
14 the National Guard and the Newark police, to a lesser
15 degree really, intimidated the community.