



JAMES F. CANTWELL
President
National Guard Association
of the United States

From the Flames

DURING the fiery tragedies of Detroit and Newark, it became obvious to those engaged in the restoration of order that the methods on which we always have relied to cope with civil disturbances, no longer are adequate. It isn't that the system and methods are wrong for the job they were designed to accomplish, but simply that the nature of the problem has been altered drastically.

Detroit, Newark, and much earlier, Watts, added a whole new dimension to the difficult problem of coping with the turmoil in American cities.

Defiance of the law, and violence, took on so massive a scale in Detroit and Newark, that their intensity and extent could hardly have been imagined, much less anticipated. Some degree of organization, or manipulation, was discernible, even if rudimentary and spur-of-the-moment. Mass arson and looting surpassed anything in the previous experience of civil and military authorities alike. Most serious from the standpoint of the difficulties which had to be overcome, persistent sniper fire hampered law enforcement and fire-fighting operations. This gave both the Detroit and Newark operations the character of urban guerrilla warfare rather than mere riot control. Finally, thousands of otherwise uninvolved persons succumbed to the general hysteria and became participants to some degree in the degrading spectacle, even as they simultaneously became the major victims of their own destructive acts.

All this confronts the Nation with an urgent need to *prevent* such catastrophic outbreaks in the future, and to *contain* them quickly, before they can grow to such uncontrollable dimensions, if they erupt despite our best efforts.

The National Guard, as a military extension of both the State and Federal authority, should not concern itself with the sociological aspects of the problem except as these overlap our enforcement function. But we *must* take a direct and prominent hand in devising more effective methods for bringing such disorders under control in the shortest possible time with the least harm to innocent persons.

This involves such areas as psychological deterrence, improved inter-agency coordination at State and municipal level, better command and control techniques, more comprehensive planning and preparation, updated tactical doctrines tailored to such use, expanded training at every level based on lessons learned in the recent disastrous eruptions, and a host of lesser improvements.

The first steps in this direction have been taken. In the immediate aftermath of Detroit and Newark, I made some general recommendations to the Secretary of Army along the lines enumerated above. Acting on information obtained from a variety of sources, the Secretary directed the Continental Army Command to evaluate forthwith the Army program for the training and employment of troops in support of civil authority, and to produce a training program aimed at correcting any deficiencies.

No one can say that it won't happen again but, on the basis of the important steps which already have been taken, all of us—Active Army, National Guard and State authorities—will have better means at hand for bringing outbreaks like these to an end before they assume such massive, near-anarchical proportions.

One final point needs to be made. Guardsmen need not be ashamed, despite the drumfire of widely-publicized criticism, of the performance of their fellow-Guardsmen in Newark and Detroit. Faced with the utter chaos of whole cities seemingly gone mad, they responded courageously and well.

In the gunfire and flames of Detroit and Newark, mistakes inevitably were made—mistakes both in judgment and methods. But the mistakes and supposed deficiencies were not nearly as prevalent as some news accounts would suggest. What we must set our minds to now is of greater importance than attempting to prove or disprove each off-the-cuff, heat-of-the-moment accusation.

First, we must use every means at our disposal to counteract any harmful impact that the criticism may have on public confidence in the Guard. Second, even more critical, the Guard *and* the Army must restudy the whole problem of applying military force in civil disorders. Then, we must quickly adapt our training and our methods to the needs which Detroit and Newark have imposed on us. Whatever else remains unclear, that much is plain. ♦



/67

The National GUARDSMAN

September XXI 9

CONTENTS



In a typical scene of this Summer's riot duty, a Michigan National Guardsman defends firemen battling an arsonist-set blaze in Detroit.

- RIOT DUTY 2**
Eruptions of cities into battlefields and citizens into insurgents call for measures of force. But how much or how little? And by whom with what?
- NEWARK/PLAINFIELD 4**
"It was obvious open rebellion," as mobs looted, burned and sniped with utter abandon.
- OPERATION SUNDOWN 6**
Detroit was devastated and a Guardsman died from a sniper's bullet in the back.
- CAMBRIDGE, MINNEAPOLIS, MILWAUKEE, ELSEWHERE 8**
Besieged by brickbats, bottles, gunfire and curses, Guardsmen stood fast in their determination to protect life and property, restore and maintain peace.
- LESSONS LEARNED IN DETROIT 12**
A preliminary after-action report of a new dimension in civil disturbance.
- REALIGNMENT PROTESTED . . . SRE ROTATION PROJECTED . . . RIOT TRAINING REVISED . . . ANG FUTURE PONDERED . . . 14**
- "GUARD STRIKE" 22**
It was the largest exercise ever attempted by Guardsmen.
- THEY BUILD FOR THE FUTURE 26**
West Virginia introduces its youth to military life.
- AFT '67 28**
A pictorial roundup of Annual Field Training.
- AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY 35**
A Reserve Component class survives a special 17-day jump school.

STAFF

EDITOR / Col. Allan G. Crist

ASSOCIATE EDITOR / Donald W. Coble

ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION / Maj. John Bibb

Official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States. Publication office: Telegraph Press Building, Harrisburg, Penna. Second class postage paid at Harrisburg, Penna. All correspondence and address changes should be addressed to 1 Massachusetts Ave. N. W., Washington, D. C. 20001. THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN welcomes original articles bearing on National Defense, with emphasis on the Army and Air National Guard. Manuscripts must be accompanied by return postage, and no responsibility is assumed for their safe handling. Domestic subscriptions for home delivery: \$2 per year. A year's subscription is included within NGAUS members' annual dues. Subscriptions to foreign addresses, \$2.50 per year. Single copies, 25¢. Copyright, 1967, National Guard Assn. of the U. S. All rights reserved.

SEPTEMBER, 1967