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D R A F T

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 30, 1992

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

A tragic series of events ^{have occurred} in Los Angeles that include frustration over a verdict, the wanton destruction of property, and the senseless death of several citizens in the last few hours. I urge all Americans to approach this situation with calm, with tolerance, and with a respect for the rights of all individuals under the Constitution.

The United States Department of Justice will continue its criminal investigation of the police violence case in Los Angeles to ensure that the civil rights laws of our nation are fully and equally applied. The Department of Justice has been monitoring this case since its inception. As is customary in these kinds of situations, the Justice Department moved last night to accelerate the investigation it started several months ago.

I have just met with the Attorney General of the United States to consider the Federal Government's legal course at this point, and to review any other forms of assistance that we should provide the state of California and the city of Los Angeles. I also discussed these matters this morning with Governor Wilson,

Mayor Bradley and with other senior members of my administration ~~to provide any assistance necessary to help restore law and order.~~

We are concerned about any question of excessive police violence, and we are equally concerned about excessive public violence. The murder and destruction in the streets of Los Angeles last night and today must be stopped. Lootings, beatings, and random violence against innocent victims must be condemned. Society cannot tolerate this behavior. ~~The community must pull together to heal the wounds and provide constructive solutions.~~

There are some principles of law, and of behavior, that should be repeated in these circumstances. First, we must maintain a respect for our legal system and a demand for law and order. Second, we have a right to expect a police force that protects our citizens and behaves in a responsible manner. Third, in the American conscience, there is no room for bigotry and racism. And fourth, we have responsibilities as citizens of this democracy. I want everyone to know that the Federal Government will continue to pursue its legal responsibilities in this case.

#

Good evening. Tonight I want to talk about a great, unfinished item on America's agenda. I want to talk about racial harmony.

Barbara and I have watched in sadness and shock as the horrible events have unfolded in Los Angeles -- and across the country.

Tonight, all Americans feel exhausted and frightened. We have seen the beating of Rodney King. We have witnessed violence in the smoke-shrouded streets of Los Angeles. We think of families who will this week bury innocent victims of violence, and we ask: What have we become?

I know that many of you feel pain and fear and anguish. I do, and I don't always know what to do with it. Nothing is more personal than the fear of discrimination; nothing more irrational; nothing more violates our sense of dignity.

When I think of the violence we've seen this week, I think about my children, and my grandchildren. I think about my friends. I think about how it affects them today, and how it might reshape the rest of their lives.

Our nation has grown strong under a system of justice designed to provide equal justice for all men and women. That system has survived many tough tests. It works, but only so long as we believe in it, and we resist the temptation to rush to justice.

We know these things. If a person cannot get justice because of the color of his or her skin, there is no justice. If a person

cannot fulfill a dream because prejudice stands in the way, there is no American Dream. And if there is no brotherhood -- if no one will stand up to bigots or to mobs, we surrender the goodness that has made us great.

This week's shocking events force us to face the truth: We have not yet overcome. The heroic civil rights movement of the 1960s killed Jim Crow, but it did not banish the spectre of intolerance and suspicion. The street violence only highlights subtler violence that disfigures our national dream every day.

When people cross the street to avoid walking too near a person of another color, they commit quiet violence.

When people assume that someone must be racist because the person enjoys a good job, they commit quiet violence.

When a clerk looks suspiciously at a customer just because of the customer's skin color, they commit quiet violence.

Quiet violence wears other labels -- a glass ceiling that shuttles able people into stereotyped jobs; red lines that declare some neighborhoods off limits to minorities; subtle practices that make it difficult for minorities to get loans for cars or educations or homes.

When any of us lets bigotry pass unchallenged, we commit quiet violence. And we must stop.

Racial tensions will not vanish just because we want them to. Racism will not go away if we just wait for someone to pass a law or file a lawsuit. If we want an end to bigotry, we must do it. Each one of us bears responsibility for annihilating the plague of

racial hatred.

In simple small daily deeds we must extend the hand of brotherhood -- even to those who haven't even asked.

Tonight, I propose a simple small act that I hope will lead to healing. Tonight, I declare next Monday, May 4, a national day of healing and tolerance. [[recommend some personal gesture]]

[[expand efforts at reducing police-neighborhood tensions???]]

[[federal marshalls]]

Let me offer a few words of warning. I know that some prophets of hatred will exploit the national wound opened by the incidents in Los Angeles. I know some politicians will try to confuse matters by lumping dozens of other issues into the discussion. They will call racist anybody who does not support their cause or their approach.

These people must make a choice: They can exploit our national pain for political gain, or they can join the rest of us in healing wounds and finding common ground.

I also know that some people might try to justify this week's violence on the basis of dissatisfaction and rage. I won't accept that. There is no excuse for random violence and mob murder.

I cannot condone the violence we saw in a videotaped beating. But I feel real anger when I think of people pulled from their vehicles as made their way to work, or as they tried to drive to the safe haven of family and home.

No excuse can wash away the evil of murder and mayhem. It cannot replace the jobs people lost this week, or the lives

destroyed because someone wanted an excuse for violence. We must stand for the rule of law, and for the rights of all people.

Every person in America has a stake in racial healing, and everybody has a role. [[personal example??]]

[[refer to civil rights meeting]]

I want to move toward a truly decent and good society. I want a society in which each person can attend a good school, get a good job, live in a safe community, and raise a family in a neighborhood where people know each other, trust each other and help each other.

I want every American to have a real stake in our promised future. We should work to ensure that the poor can earn property - - and a future; that all Americans have a fair choice of good schools, health care, and child care; and that every American has an incentive to reach out and make someone's life better.

The Cold War liberated a generation of children from the fear of nuclear war. Now we must liberate them from fear of violence in their own streets -- and quiet violence in the places they live and work.

We must understand that no one in Los Angeles or any other city has rendered a verdict on America. And we should understand this, too: Our nation, the land of dreams for generations who sought freedom, enjoys the bounty of many cultures. We have the most vibrant society on earth because we live in the most open and diverse society on earth. We can only become richer in experience and truth if we learn more about each of the threads that form the fabric of American life.

In the end, values bind this fabric together. Even as we celebrate our diversity, our traditional values must serve as the rallying cry of good and decent people.

It did this week. As mobs beat a young Asian-American motorist, actor Gregory Alan-Williams rushed in. He pulled the man to freedom. He saved a life.

As elderly citizens gasped for air in Watts, "Sweet Alice" Harris, one of our Points of Light, organized efforts to get them to hospitals. Her organization, Parents of Watts, found food for families, since looters have emptied all the local groceries, and she found other essentials for people in need.

These people had a choice: They could have pointed fingers, or they could extend the hand of brotherhoods. And they did the right thing.

That is what America is all about, and that is what I ask all of us to do in our lives. I come to you as a man who has spent much of his life longing for racial harmony, and fighting in his own way to building greater unity among the American community.

I know we can stamp out racism. We can push back the tide of violence and crime. We can work to ensure that violence and suspicion divide us no more.

Let us begin right now, in our hearts -- and in our lives. Bigotry, violence, prejudice, provocation: These things will not stand. Thank you. May God bless you; May God bless all those suffering this night from violence or scorn; and my God bless this great and decent land, the United States of America.

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ROUTE 2

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Madam President, jurors were asked to yield to this fear. Jurors were asked

to deny Rodney King's humanity, to deny they saw what they saw. It was the ultimate attempt at delusion, delusion born in a society that does not talk honestly about race, an ultimate attempt at delusion born in a society which fails to see that its salvation lies in overcoming racism, and not in yielding to racism.

The verdict: Not guilty. In the last 12 hours, I do not know about everybody else in this body, but I have had a few things happen. Let me share just a couple.

A young black male walks up to me earlier today and says, "I hope you're going to say something. It could be me next time. It was not likely they did not have any evidence."

A nonblack female says: "I guess I have become immune to such injustices, and that really saddens me. I have become so used to seeing the side I consider to be right, that events like this no longer seem to surprise me."

A young black man interviewed on TV last night says: "If I went to a grocery store and stole a Twinkie, and I was on videotape, I would be in jail for 6 months. But if I were beaten up on the street by four white cops, they could get off. Where is the justice?"

A female black lawyer said: "People should not be afraid of the people who are supposed to protect them, but they are." Imagine if the shoe were on the other foot; imagine if an all black jury acquitted a black policeman, or several black police officers, who had beaten a white person to a pulp 56 times in 81 seconds on videotape. Imagine what would be said then, and then you could imagine a little bit, I believe, how African-Americans feel today.

No justice can come from injustice. Racism breeds racism; violence begets violence. So the image of white police officers beating a black man lying prone on the ground dissolves into the image of a black crowd dragging a white driver from a vehicle and kicking him to death. That violence only further exacerbates the tragedy of thousands of lives of those who live in an area wracked by drugs and gang violence and poverty and despair.

A state of emergency has been declared in south-central Los Angeles. All violence must be condemned. But the emergency is national. I have said before on this floor that slavery was our original sin, and race remains our unresolved dilemma. That dilemma becomes a state of emergency when our carefully constructed system—governmental, judicial, social—breaks down in the face of the racial reality of our society. And the reality is, sad to say, it was easier for an all white jury to put themselves in the shoes of a white police officer than to put themselves in the position of Rodney King. After all, the jury did not live in the city. The jury has not been the target of ugly racial epithets or discrimination. They have never been pulled over by a police officer simply because they

were black. Once again, we are forced to confront the division in our society.

In 1820, Thomas Jefferson described the emotion raging around the slavery issue as "a warning bell in the night." Our Nation ignored that warning, and it cost us a Civil War which took the most American lives of any war we have ever had.

In the 1960's James Baldwin, in the midst of great racial advances in civil rights, said, "Beware, the fire next time."

In the last 24 hours, another warning bell has rung, and other fires have burned. If we, as a nation, continue to ignore the racial reality of our times, tiptoe around it, demagog it, or flee from it, we are going to pay an enormous price.

What we need now, at the exact time, is hope and accountability, accountability for the conduct of the police officers, and hope that the system of justice can work. With that in mind, I call on the Attorney General to file criminal civil rights charges against the police officers. If a crime is done and the system does not work, that is what the civil rights laws are all about. Next, I call on President Bush to go to Los Angeles and to the community and meet with the residents to show his concern, if they believe it will be helpful.

Finally, all of us have to fight for a political system that will guarantee that the voiceless will have a voice more powerful than violence. Emmet Till was an African-American, a young man killed in Mississippi one summer while visiting relatives because he said "bye-bye" to a white woman in a store. After she lost her son, Emmet Till's mother said:

When something happened to Negroes in the South, I said "that is their business, not mine." Now I know how wrong I was. The murder of my son had shown me that what happens to any of us, anywhere in the world, had better be the business of all of us.

What happened in the courtroom in Simi Valley last night is the business of all of us, and we better start speaking candidly, and we better do something about the physical conditions in our cities, or risk losing increasingly larger numbers of lives of our citizens in our cities in the violence, or the fire that next time is going to engulf all of us.

I yield the floor.

Mr. RIEGLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. RIEGLE. Madam President, first of all, let me associate myself with the remarks of Senator BRADLEY. I think he speaks for many of us. He certainly speaks the sentiments that I have in his very eloquent, and powerful, and important remarks now.

I want to cite another example in this same vein. In the Senate Banking Committee recently, we had a hearing of the Twenty-first Century Commission on African-American males and

the problems facing young black men in our society today. And the statistics are truly horrifying, in terms of the death rates, the unemployment rates—even those with college degrees are finding in many cases they cannot find work in our society.

One of our witnesses to talk about this problem, was a person known by many, a very able and outstanding television personality named Blair Underwood, who appeared on the TV show "L.A. Law." He told us a personal story, not terribly different in some important respects from the Rodney King story.

I am going to paraphrase what he told us. In his situation he described one day leaving the movie lot where he had been filming an episode of "L.A. Law," and he was driving, I believe, a very nice sports car—that he owns—to his home, somewhere in the Hollywood area, but in a very nice and exclusive neighborhood. He pulled up in front of his own home to get out of his car, and he had been followed by a police car that had come up behind him. As he was sitting in his own car, in front of his own house and was about to get out, a police officer came around and approached him and in a very hostile way, asked him what he was doing in this neighborhood. Before he could answer, there was a very tense moment and the police officer in this case ordered him to get out of the car. The police officer drew a gun, ordered him to get out of the car and to get down on the ground and to prepare to be inspected in some fashion by the police officer.

Obviously, he was totally taken aback by this incident. He was frightened by it, as any of us would be, to have a police officer in front of our own home pointing a pistol at us in a confrontational fashion of that kind.

This is not ancient history and this is not make-believe. This is a real situation of another American citizen of color who had this happen, as it turns out, in the same general area of the country not all that long ago.

The Rodney King beating trial, as others have said, is a serious miscarriage of justice, the verdict in that trial. In fact, Federal law protects every citizen of America from racially motivated violent beatings by police officers. We have written laws in this country that are on the books right now that prohibit that kind of thing from happening. And that law has to be enforced. The President has an obligation to see that it is enforced and that his Attorney General move immediately to see that the law is enforced, as had just been suggested by the Senator from New Jersey.

Senator METZENBAUM is drafting a letter in conjunction with several of us, to put that request in a written form so that it might be transmitted to the administration and to the President today.

from Jay -
Kivild
2pm

Outline of Remarks on Violence in Los Angeles

- During the past few days, violence and lawlessness has erupted in several cities throughout the nation.
- More than 25 innocent lives have already been lost, over a thousand Americans have been injured, and thousands of businesses have been destroyed.
- This senseless and destructive violence is disfiguring to a nation that has always prided itself on its devotion to the rule of law. Our legal and judicial system has survived for more than 200 years and is the bedrock of our democratic society.
- Today, America is grieving. We are saddened by the loss of life, infuriated by the rampant destruction of private and public property, and deeply anguished by the sense of despair that many Americans feel -- especially in some of our largest cities.
- But let me state in the clearest possible terms. This violence cannot and will not be tolerated. It is an assault on the integrity of our nation, and on its democratic institutions.
- I know that many Americans were surprised by the verdict in the case of the Los Angeles police officers this week. But surprise, even shock and anger, over the verdict is not an excuse for lawless behavior. And these acts of violence must stop.
- My paramount responsibility is to restore order and protect people's lives and property. The time for healing cannot come until peace and order and sanity is restored.
- There are some who look at the events of the past few days and insist that our system is a failure. This type of demagoguery is destructive to society. We know that no system is perfect. All man-made institutions, including our legal system, are fallible.
- But it is our duty continually to work to improve those institutions. And I have already instructed the Attorney General to resume his investigation of this case and of police brutality wherever it exists.
- But those who would have us rush to judgment or institute legal proceedings without the proper investigation and analysis, seek not to improve the system but to sabotage it.

May 1, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID DEMAREST
DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: RESEARCHERS
SUBJECT: OVAL/L.A.

LINCOLN QUOTES:

Government should not act for revenge.

If some men will kill, or beat, or constrain others, or despoil them of property by force, fraud, or non-compliance with contracts, it is a common object with peaceful and just men to prevent it.

Let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty.

There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law.

Let us discard all this quibbling about this man and the other man, this race and that race and the other race, being inferior and therefore they must be placed in an inferior position. Let us discard all these things, and unite as one people throughout this land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal.

RIOTS IN FIVE (5) OTHER CITIES:

San Francisco, Atlanta, Las Vegas, Seattle, Tampa Bay.
Protests also in Dallas, and Madison, Wisconsin.

A FEW EXCERPTS FROM LA ARTICLES

A youth minister from the House of Prayer Church in Compton was trying to persuade people to cease looting and go home. No one paid attention.

22-year-old member from the same church said, "This is not unity. This is destroying. This is like getting angry and setting your own house on fire. I'm praying for these people."

" . . . citizen soldiers facing citizens . . . "

The irony of it all: Guardsman armed with loaded M-16 rifles were stationed at the corner of MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD and Vermont Avenue, where rioters had battled over a strip mall most of the day. [Two men named King: Years ago, Martin Luther King raised the consciousness of this nation on the issue of race; today, the issue of Rodney King illustrates that we have farther to go. 'We have not overcome.'] "The model of behavior that this group chose to follow not to a Martin Luther King of non-violence but a Malcolm X of 'freedom by any means necessary'."

There were little kids looting for their parents. Parents saying, "Go on in, run in there and get more."

FYI: A factoid with a lot of impact -- 56 blows in 81 seconds (re Rodney King video). 81 seconds of video has literally changed the nation.

Chinese proverb: If we do not change the direction we are going, we will wind up where we are headed.

Factoid: Lake View Terrace neighborhood is where beating occurred.

Factoid: From a CNN broadcast -- "The cost of the LA riots thus far run in the \$200 million range."

Factoid: Los Angeles -- known as "city of the angels."

Factoid: Jury comprised of 6 men, 6 women -- a housekeeper, cable splicer, bank clerk, retired real estate broker, phone company technician, computer analyst, retired naval aviator, park ranger, college groundskeeper, program manager, retired mental health worker, and a nurse.

T-shirt of one of the residents of the riot-torn area: "Justice -- not Just Us."

Firefighters in LA were quoted as saying: "We have a lot of people out there who care about us . . . kids are waving to us from their doors." "There's a lot of good people out there. . . bringing us drinks of water or the last can of soda that they had saved." "If they can, lend a hand." "People are helping by doing what the law asks."

King's aunt said of her nephew: " . . . You can't use his name as the excuse for all that's happening in the city now. And you can't use his name as the salvation."

SOME POINTS FROM BARR'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY

"The verdicts yesterday on state charges are not the end of this process."

The Department and the FBI have been closely monitoring the Los Angeles case since the incident occurred.

We have now moved forward with our own federal investigation of this incident to determine whether there was a violation of the civil rights law.

I join the President, local officials and community leaders in calling on all Americans to obey the law.

We take with gravest concern any allegation of police brutality. . . .At the same time, we cannot tolerate public violence and lawlessness, and it is imperative that this violence come to an end immediately.

This is now an active criminal investigation.

In these particular cases, the standard is whether or not we believe that the federal interest was adequately vindicated in the state proceedings...If it's not, then we feel free to proceed on a federal track."

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Tonight,
who ~~*PT80 fight~~, my heart goes out to those who felt betrayed by a
system of justice that seemed to have gone wrong -- and to those
who have suffered since from the angry reaction of a frustrated
and misguided mob.

Two days ago,

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Columbus, Ohio)

For Immediate Release

April 30, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO OHIO BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

The Hyatt on Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio

3:12 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Fred, very much -- all of you, Gene and Dale and Tom, for the greeting out here. And good afternoon. I'm pleased to be back for my third appearance before -- something about the Ohio Broadcasters. (Applause.)

I have a few remarks to make on a subject, but before that I want to comment just on the events that are concerning our country -- building a little on comments I made earlier in a statement to the nation about the news out of Los Angeles.

No one watching the television coverage of the violence yesterday afternoon and evening could have any reaction other than revulsion and pain. And mob brutality, the total loss of respect for human life was sickeningly sad. And the frustration all of us felt seeing helpless victims pulled from vehicles and assaulted -- it was hard not to turn our eyes away.

But we must not turn our eyes away. And we must keep on working to create a climate of understanding and tolerance, and condemn a climate of bigotry and fear.

Last night was tragic for our country. It was tragic for the city of Los Angeles, for the people of East L.A. But there were small acts in all of this ugliness that give us hope. The citizens who ignored the mob; those who helped get the battered victims out of the area. There were people who spent the night in the churches. Many were seeking guidance in the wake of the unfolding chaos in the streets, praying that man's gentler instincts be revealed in the hearts of people driven by hate.

And you say what can we do? Well, before leaving Washington I spoke to Governor Wilson; I spoke to Mayor Tom Bradley; I spoke to Ben Hooks and some others on this problem.. And I also gave this statement to the nation regarding our plans at the federal government level regarding the court case. We have instigated an investigation under civil rights protection. We will do what we can from the federal government to help those small business people that have been just wiped out by wanton destruction. And I will keep telling the country that we must stand up against lawlessness and crime, wherever it takes place.

And regrettably, what is happening in the city -- or did happen last night was purely criminal. It was outrageous what happened. And we are all sickened by what we saw.

On the larger issues, I've thought a lot about this. And say what you want, but it is important at a time like this to really talk about some old-fashioned values like respect for the other's rights, respect for property rights; manifest that respect in our actions as well as our words. We must make a compact with each

MORE

other that we will not tolerate racism and bigotry and anti-Semitism and hate of any kind anywhere, any time. Not over the dinner table; not in the board room; not in the playground -- nowhere.

*make
very clear
point
about
looking.*

We must condemn violence. I make no apology for the rule of law or the requirement to live by it. And, yes, in some places in America there is, regrettably, a cycle of poverty and despair. But if the system perpetuates this cycle, then we've got to change the system. We simply cannot condone violence as a way of changing the system.

So we ought to change. We ought to try hard. Change the status quo. And we've got to do it peacefully and we've got to do it thoughtfully. This -- I am very hopeful, that calm can be restored to this very important part of our country and that goodwill will prevail over the hatred that we've seen in the streets in the last few hours.

I am now switching off to what I came here to talk to you all about. Let me just first say a word about this city and about the great man who gave his name to this city. Columbus dared to explore far beyond the horizons of his continent, and he discovered a New World. You talk about the vision thing, well, he had it.

Speaking of vision, we wouldn't be attending the Broadcasters Convention had it not been for the daring of scientific prodigies like DeForest and Marconi. We should keep in mind just how new this thing called broadcasting is. The same year that my dad was born right here in Columbus, Ohio, just a few blocks away on East Broad Street, Marconi invented radio. It either makes me very old or makes radio very young; I can't figure out which that is. (Laughter.)

But I'm sure there are many here who can remember when the first TV broadcast went on the air. I can remember the first TV set I had -- a great, big square looking box with a little tiny yellow-colored window. It was made by Hoffman. I don't think it proved to be too successful because I don't think they're making TV sets anymore. But it wasn't that long ago.

Telecommunications is still in its infancy. I think that it's taking big steps now. And as you look over the horizon at the future of this country in technology the steps are going to be enormous. They're something bright and new in human history.

In addition to all this new technology, I think we can look at a whole other area and talk about the worldwide spread of freedom and democracy. Around the globe, nations are joining a movement in which the United States is the great pioneer. We are -- never forget it -- the unsurpassed leader. And for those who will have you believe that this country is in a state of decline, travel abroad and see the respect with which this country is held.

We've got to protect our freedoms. We've got to trust people with their freedoms. These form the core of our crusade to make this country stronger. A free economy will be a strong economy, and it will create more good jobs. We'll keep our healthy society -- keep society healthy if we keep our family first -- put family first. And by keeping our defenses strong, we're going to keep the peace.

I'm working hard to open world markets. And open trade will create more and better jobs for this country. It offers our consumers lower prices and more choices. And expanding trade is one of five programs for this country's future that I view as really top priorities.

We're working as well to revolutionize -- this is the second one -- to revolutionize -- literally to reinvent our schools.

Parents are leading the way. In community after community, they are standing up to the bureaucratic establishment; they're asserting their rights in their children's education. And I salute Governor Voinovich, whose wife is with us here today, for the lead that Ohio is taking in achieving the goals of America 2000, our literally revolutionary education program.

We're working for fundamental reform of government, including a balanced budget amendment -- now it has strong support on both sides of the aisle. Clearly, it has to be phased in. But there's a change in the country; people are saying we've got to do better. I support strongly term limits to make Congress much more accountable. I think the time has come for that. And I also believe, and have submitted suggestions to the Congress for this rather revolutionary idea -- that Congress ought to live by the laws that it passes and laws that affect others. It is no longer right to be separate. (Applause.)

The next category is we are working to help the innovations and efficiencies of free market make quality health care available to all. I do not want to see us go to what they call a nationalized system or what some refer to as socialized medicine. We want to retain the quality of our health care, but we've got to give access to all, make insurance accessible to all. So we need to do that.

And then the last point I want to make is we are fighting the explosion of nuisance lawsuits. Let's spend more time helping each other and less time suing each other. And that means we need to put some limits on these outrageous liability claims. (Applause.)

I might add that we are fighting hard to get the burdens of unreasonable government regulation off the backs of the people. And regulation really imposes a hidden tax on every man, woman and child in this country. In the State of the Union address some 92 days ago, I lit a fire under our own administration's efforts for fundamental reform of government regulation. And this week we completed that 90-day moratorium that I ordered on new regulations. In just those 90 days we have completed or set in motion reforms that will save America \$15 billion to \$20 billion a year. And yesterday I ordered a 120-day extension on that moratorium, and I'm expecting many more achievements for freedom and for common sense.

Fundamental reform of regulation cannot be achieved overnight, and it's going to take a lot of tough, imaginative, patient effort. But I am totally committed to reforming regulation because the cost of inaction would be much more than we could bear. Think of some of the burdens and the contradictions that we already face.

Here in Columbus the city government has projected that over the next decade its cost of compliance with federal environmental regulations alone will be \$1.6 billion. And that's \$856 per household per year. Now, this is for a community whose entire city budget last year was \$591 million. The share of the city's budget to meet these regulations stands to increase from 10 percent to 23 percent. And right now, Columbus is one of the most attractive places in the country for people to work and live. But I can't say things will stay that way if the cost of meeting government mandates keeps going right out through the roof.

In Juneau, Alaska, a local charity, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, wanted to build an addition to its shelter for the homeless, also requiring more parking space. Unfortunately, the building project was delayed for a whole year because bureaucrats declared the site a wetland. Now, get this -- the shelter is in the middle of town, surrounded by concrete -- dry concrete, I think -- on a city block that includes two car dealerships, a plumbing store and

a storage business. There is something wrong with this picture. And obviously somebody in this episode was all wet, but it wasn't the real estate for the homeless shelter. I cite this as just the kind of example that we must fight against at the federal level; that the local level must fight against, too.

And back here in Ohio, an unreasonable federal regulation almost forced the closing of this health plan in Dayton -- we call the Dayton Area Health Plan. George Voinovich called this to my attention -- an innovative, managed care program designed to offer high quality care to some 43,000 Medicaid recipients in Dayton. Governor Voinovich and the Lieutenant Governor Mike Dewine led the effort -- who I did not introduce but who is with us here today -- led the effort to change this inequity. And just this week I signed legislation granting an exemption for this Ohio reform initiative.

I have confidence in the new ideas that Ohioans are developing on their own, and without the mandates from the know-it-alls in these subcommittees back in Washington, D.C. or in our own bureaucracy. We don't do much for Americans' health when we put HMOs, like the one in Dayton, on the critical list.

It's stories like these that remind us what a visionary Alexis de Tocqueville was. A century and a half ago -- a century and a half ago he warned that if Americans were not careful, government would -- and here's the quote -- "cover the surface of society with a network of small, complicated rules, minute and uniform, through which the most original minds and the most energetic characters cannot penetrate." This is de Tocqueville, coming over and taking a look at our society back then. I don't know what would happen to him if he took a look at it today.

We've heard the warning. We're fighting back. And our reform efforts are breathing new life into America's ability to compete, to innovate, and to create jobs. Every federal agency that I asked to participate has responded with action to ease the burden of unnecessary regulation. From biotechnology, to energy, to the banking field and, yes, to broadcasting and telecommunications, we are taking the shackles off of American enterprise.

Let me take this occasion to salute the FCC, Federal Communications Commission, for its actions to relax needless restrictions on ownership of radio stations. The FCC also has taken action to allow competition among international satellite companies. Now, this will help reduce prices that Americans now pay on more than a billion telephone calls every year to other countries. These are very welcome reforms. Al Sikes, who is our chairman, the FCC Chairman, believes in free markets and he believes in innovation. It's clear to me that that is the right direction.

Looking forward, one can't help but see that new telecommunications technologies will revolutionize science, education and the way we do business. They will be an important boon to families. The day is coming when mothers and fathers will be able to spend more time at home with their children even as they make ever-more productive contributions to our economy. The predictions for doing work at home in a productive way are absolutely outstanding, amazing. And I think you're going to see a whole new area build up for productivity.

In the same spirit as regulatory reform is privatization -- facilities now run by government to be owned and operated by competitive enterprises, and thus serve the public more fairly and more efficiently.

Today before I came out here to Columbus, I signed an executive order that will give state and local governments more freedom to sell or lease their infrastructure to the private sector if they choose to do so. We hear complaints that America's

infrastructure is crumbling and that states aren't putting enough money into expanding or repairing it. And at the same time, many private companies want to invest in these projects. So our executive order will remove impediments to competitive enterprises, buying infrastructure assets. That means bridges or roads or housing and sewage treatment plants.

This initiative could generate billions of dollars in new investment and millions of new jobs. American business has the funds to invest in infrastructure and has the funds to expand it.

Through today's actions we will help more people enjoy cheaper and better waste water treatment service by letting businesses with real market incentives do the job. We'll help low-income tenants buy their own housing. The dignity that comes with homeownership is a wonderful thing for our country. We're promoting competition that could dramatically reduce the cost of urban mass transit. And the money that states will receive for selling these facilities will be used to build even more new needed infrastructure or to lower the states' debts or to cut your taxes.

Privatizing state enterprises is one of the great hopes for economic growth and rebirth from Mexico City to Moscow. Take a look at what's happened south of our border under the courageous President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas. Look at the many formerly government-owned entities that he has turned over to much more efficient operation in the private sector. There is an example from what Mexico is doing for us right here in the United States. Same thing is true in Moscow.

As I sit down with the leaders from the new Commonwealth of Independent States -- and I'll be meeting very soon with Kravchuk, and shortly after that, with Boris Yeltsin -- we are encouraging them to move to the very kinds of privatization that I'm talking about here. I think you're going to find that they're doing it and it's going to be highly successful, and it offers them great hopes for recovery out of the economic morass that they're in right now.

So this idea presents many chances for positive change -- change abroad and change right here in our own country. And there are opportunities, frankly, that we simply cannot afford to overlook. And of one thing I am certain: the status quo, the old thinkers are not going to yield on this without a fight. The special interest crowd will not like the agenda that I've outlined for you today. They think that government ought to own more, not less. They think that government ought to mandate more, not less.

When I meet with the governors -- and I've done that quite a few times since I've been President -- all across party lines, all across ideological lines of conservative and liberal comes the cry from the governors, do not burden us with mandates coming out of some old thinking subcommittee in the Capitol Hill of Washington, DC. And we are determined to try to facilitate what the governors want by giving them flexibility and saddling them with far fewer mandates.

Washington hasn't changed much since you all have been there. It is swarming with noisy lobbyists for the old interests who want this highly centralized federal government and people who have never met a regulation that they didn't really like. And this is springtime, and a young man's thoughts turn, as does his radio dial, to baseball.

And so I thought I'd leave you with a favorite story. I don't know whether all these Yogi Berra stories are true or not -- you know, pair 'em up in threes and things like that. (Laughter.) In Yogi's hometown of St. Louis, the local people organized a celebration in his honor at the old Sportman's Park. And Yogi quavered with emotion as he stepped up to speak.

"First," he said, "from the bottom of my heart let me thank all the people who have made this day necessary." (Laughter.) I think the point of the story is this: The freedom-loving people of this country -- the people of ingenuity and enterprise, the people in leading-edge industries like your own -- are not merely making renewal of limited government possible, they're making it necessary. And they're making it inevitable. And technological advance is accelerating so rapidly that the old guard can only hope in vain to keep up. We'll make intrusive and gluttonous government a thing of the past.

We've reached a turning point. And we're on the verge of watershed reforms to make government stop stifling people who want to use their freedoms, their own freedoms, to create and to produce and to serve.

And the day is coming when enterprisers and innovators like yourselves will lead us into these exciting new horizons. The day is coming when dreams not yet imagined will come true. And I am confident about the years ahead. I know we've had difficult times. But I don't believe for one single minute that the United States of America is in decline. The future is tremendously exciting. And if we handle the technological change with the innovative manner I've outlined here today, I believe we can usher in all kinds of new eras of prosperity for the working men and women in this country.

Again, I'm confident of the years ahead. And the big thing is to keep this nation a champion of ideas and of opportunity, and with that first subject in mind, of justice. We can reform our schools and our courts and our health system -- our very system of government. And we can assure that when we reach the new century America will still be the strongest, the bravest, and the freest nation on the face of the Earth.

It's good to be back with you. And thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

END

3:35 P.M. EDT

"I've seen too much hate to want to hate, myself, and I've seen hate on the faces of too many sheriffs, too many White Citizens Councilors, and too many Klansmen of the South to want to hate, myself; and every time I see it, I say to myself, hate is too great a burden to bear. Somehow we must be able to stand up before our most bitter opponents and say: 'We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will and we will still love you. We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws and abide by the unjust system, because noncooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good, and so throw us in jail and we will still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and, as difficult as it is, we will still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our communities at the midnight hour and drag us out on some wayside road and leave us half-dead as you beat us, and we will still love you. Send your propaganda agents around the country and make it appear that we are not fit, culturally and otherwise, for integration, but we'll still love you. But be assured that we'll wear you down by our capacity to suffer, and one day we will win our freedom. We will not only win freedom for ourselves, we will so appeal to your heart and conscience that we will win you in the process, and our victory will be a double victory.'

"If there is to be peace on earth and good will toward men, we must finally believe in the ultimate morality of the universe, and believe that all reality hinges on moral foundations."

MLK

"Violence as a way of achieving racial justice is both impractical and immoral. It is impractical because it is a descending spiral ending in destruction for all. The old law of an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind. It is immoral because it seeks to humiliate the opponent rather than win his understanding; it seeks to annihilate rather than to convert. Violence is immoral because it thrives on hatred rather than love. It destroys community and makes brotherhood impossible. It leaves society in monologue rather than dialogue. Violence ends by defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers."

"When one tries to pin down advocates of violence as to what acts would be effective, the answers are blatantly illogical. Sometimes they talk of overthrowing racist state and local governments. They fail to see that no internal revolution has ever succeeded in overthrowing a government by violence unless the government had already lost the allegiance and effective control of its armed forces. Anyone in his right mind knows that this will not happen in the United States. In a violent racial situation, the power structure has the local police, the state troopers, the national guard, and finally the army to call on, all of which are predominately white."

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 30, 1992

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Yesterday's verdict in the Los Angeles police case has left us all with a deep sense of personal frustration and anguish. Yet it is important that we respect the law and the legal processes that have been brought to bear in this case. Today Los Angeles faces the aftermath of a terrible night of violence in which several people have lost their lives. Yet out of this rage we must find tolerance for each other and adherence to the rule of law that protects the lives and property of everyone. I call upon all citizens to be calm and to abide by the law as the legal process in this case continues. The civil rights of all Americans demand this respect.

I am meeting this morning with the Attorney General of the United States to consider this matter. We will work with Governor Wilson, Mayor Bradley and others to ensure that all appropriate steps will be taken to maintain law and order and to ensure that the legal process proceeds with due deliberation.

#

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

01-May-1992 05:59pm

TO: Sharon M. Botwin
FROM: Jean M. Bunton
Office of Communications
SUBJECT: Fact changes LA?OVAL

Mayor Bradley's office said:

LAFD responded to just under 5,000 fires

CNN reported 37 total deaths, including 8 today

South Central LA and East LA are two distinct areas -- can not interchange them -- refer to riot area as South Central LA, according to Mayor Bradley's office.

\$550 million property damage -- CNN

ant book,

OTHER KING

why the Negro can wait no
l rights. He traces the history
fight for equality back to its
ne three centuries ago. And
ry that fight came to a head in
Alabama.

the facts on the line. He dis-
appointing failure of both the
and the Supreme Court to act
s. He critically evaluates the
ious factions on the freedom
Church, various civil rights
Black Muslims; and he deals
fairly, with some well-known
including Alabama's Public
missioner "Bull" Connor and
Chairman Roger Blough. He
personal experiences with three
Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F.
ndon B. Johnson. He analyzes,
events, the forces, the pressures
ions of Americans to join to-
s the country in sit-ins, prayer
edom demonstrations.

projects into the future. In the
of *Why We Can't Wait* Martin
assesses the work to be done in
education, employment, legisla-
es a "Bill of Rights for the Dis-
; and sets forth in forceful and
the political implications of the
movement.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

WHY WE CAN'T WAIT



A MENTOR BOOK

NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY

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PUBLISHED IN CANADA BY

PENGUIN BOOKS CANADA LIMITED, MARKHAM, ONTARIO

N'T WAIT

to demonstrate who has that he could accept and ating. At the same time up any possible weapons persons. Hundreds of people some of those who carried all kinds of knives—had to use them against the because they wanted to Connor's dogs. We proved apions—not so much as a possessed the most formi- iction that we were right knowledge that we were our righteous aims than

e mass meetings, when we ch like those invitational day morning in Negro acts the call to those pres- ies and thirties and forties army. We did not hesitate But it was a special army, y, no uniform but its de- t its faith, no currency my that would move but ould sing but not slay. It but not falter. It was an red, to lay siege to the urround symbols of dis- whose allegiance was to ntelligence were the elo- ence.

and as the battle for the and caught the attention ere more crowded and Men, women and chil- nds, and then proceeded the Leadership Training it with them to come to

New Day In Birmingham

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our office the following day for screening and intensive training.

The focus of these training sessions was the socio-dramas designed to prepare the demonstrators for some of the challenges they could expect to face. The harsh language and physical abuse of the police and the self-appointed guardians of the law were frankly presented, along with the nonviolent creed in action: to resist without bitterness; to be cursed and not reply; to be beaten and not hit back. The S.C.L.C. staff members who conducted these sessions played their roles with the conviction born of experience. They included the Reverend James Lawson, expelled from Vanderbilt University a few years back for his militant civil-rights work, and one of the country's leading exponents of the non-violent credo; the Reverend James Bevel, already an experienced leader in Nashville, Greenwood and other campaigns; his wife, Diane Nash Bevel, who as a student at Fisk had become an early symbol of the young Negroes' thrust toward freedom; the Reverend Bernard Lee, whose devotion to civil rights dated back to his leadership of the student movement at Alabama State College; the Reverend Andy Young, our able and dedicated program director; and Dorothy Cotton, director of our ongoing Citizenship Education Program, who also brought her rich talent for song to the heart of the movement.

Not all who volunteered could pass our strict tests for service as demonstrators. But there was much to be done, over and above the dramatic act of presenting one's body in the marches. There were errands to be run, phone calls to be made, typing, so many things. If a volunteer wasn't suited to march, he was utilized in one of a dozen other ways to help the cause. Every volunteer was required to sign a Commitment Card that read:

I HEREBY PLEDGE MYSELF—MY PERSON AND BODY—TO THE NONVIOLENT MOVEMENT. THEREFORE I WILL KEEP THE FOLLOWING TEN COMMANDMENTS:

1. MEDITATE daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.

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WHY WE CAN'T WAIT

2. REMEMBER always that the nonviolent movement in Birmingham seeks justice and reconciliation—not victory.
3. WALK and TALK in the manner of love, for God is love.
4. PRAY daily to be used by God in order that all men might be free.
5. SACRIFICE personal wishes in order that all men might be free.
6. OBSERVE with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy.
7. SEEK to perform regular service for others and for the world.
8. REFRAIN from the violence of fist, tongue, or heart.
9. STRIVE to be in good spiritual and bodily health.
10. FOLLOW the directions of the movement and of the captain on a demonstration.

I sign this pledge, having seriously considered what I do and with the determination and will to persevere.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Nearest Relative _____

Address _____

Besides demonstrations, I could also help the movement by: (Circle the proper items)

Run errands, Drive my car, Fix food for volunteers, Clerical work, Make phone calls, Answer phones, Mimeograph, Type, Print signs, Distribute leaflets.

ALABAMA CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
BIRMINGHAM Affiliate of S.C.L.C.
505½ North 17th Street
F. L. Shuttlesworth, President



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 1, 1992

PRESS BRIEFING
BY MARLIN FITZWATER

The Briefing Room

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10:32 A.M. EDT

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10:40 A.M. EDT

#456-05/01

FRIDAY
BRIEFING
MARLIN

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 1, 1992

PRESS BRIEFING
BY MARLIN FITZWATER

The Briefing Room

10:32 A.M. EDT

MR. FITZWATER: There are encouraging reports that the situation in Los Angeles is improving. Similarly, while there have been protests in other cities, the violence has been generally under control. We are encouraged by this situation, but share the concern of everyone who is working to restore order in Los Angeles and other areas.

In discussions with Governor Wilson and Mayor Bradley and others, it is clear that a dangerous and difficult situation remains. In discussions during the night and in phone conversations with President Bush this morning, Governor Wilson requested federal assistance. Similarly, the President spoke with Mayor Bradley this morning who also said he would appreciate federal assistance.

1) In response to their request, the President has directed that a number of actions be taken to help state and local authorities bring the situation under control. The President has directed nearly 1,000 federal law enforcement officials to go to Los Angeles today, including SWAT teams and riot police, from the Border Patrol, the Bureau of Prisons and the U.S. Marshal Service. The U.S. Army will move approximately 4,000 troops from Fort Ord, California, to a staging area in Los Angeles where they can be utilized quickly and effectively, if necessary.

2) The appropriate commanding officers of the United States Army will coordinate today with the Governor, the Mayor, and other California officials so that if the use of federal military troops is needed, it can be expedited as swiftly as possible.

→ In his telephone conversations with the Governor and the Mayor this morning, President Bush noted that there are currently 1,400 National Guardsmen on duty in the city of Los Angeles; another 1,200 are ready to provide support and up to 4,000 are located where they can be utilized as necessary.

The President also emphasized that if the regular Army

The President also emphasized that if the President is deployed he would move to federalize the National Guard to ensure a unified command under regular Army leadership. We want to emphasize that we expect all state and local efforts to control the situation to be exhausted before federal military are utilized.

All of these actions constitute supplemental assistance to state and local authorities and do not change existing lines of authority in the city of Los Angeles.

As the President stated yesterday, this is a tragic situation that calls for understanding, tolerance and reason. But it also is a tragic situation that cannot be allowed to continue. The rule of law defines our freedom. The forces of repression,

MORE

#456-05/01

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suppression and anarchy cannot be allowed to continue. We will continue to work with the state and the city to ensure that freedom and public safety is restored.

Let me take a couple of questions. When the meeting breaks we'll go ahead and end it.

Q Would you clarify -- you said a thousand federal law enforcement officers, but then you said none of this changes the lines of authority. Who is in charge of those law enforcement officers?

MR. FITZWATER: They will continue to work for the agencies that they are responsible to now. In other words, the Bureau of Prisons, the Border Patrol and the U.S. Marshal Service.

Q Marlin, could you go over the numbers here briefly. The President has sent 1,000 law enforcement officers, plus 4,000 federal at the ready. I believe you said 1,400 National Guard troops with 1,200 more in the area -- 4,000 more, so that's a total by my count of 6,600 National Guardsmen plus the 5,000 or so federal forces that he's mobilized today -- is that correct?

MR. FITZWATER: No, that's not correct, because the National Guard forces are totally at the direction and control of the Governor of the state of California.

Q In total number -- have I got the total numbers right? He's mobilized 5,000 today --

MR. FITZWATER: No. He's mobilized 4,000 today from Fort Ord, California.

Q What about these 1,000 law enforcement --

MR. FITZWATER: And 1,000 law enforcement officials. Four thousand military, 1,000 civilian law enforcement officials.

Q Marlin, how quickly can those --

MR. FITZWATER: I emphasize also that the military are going to a staging area in Los Angeles and will not be on the streets unless there is further orders, which would involve the federalization of the process.

Q What would trigger that? Who would make that decision? Does it have to -- does the Governor have to make another request, or how does that happen?

MR. FITZWATER: That would be the result of consultations with the Governor.

Q How quickly will those guys from Fort Ord be in

Q How quickly will they get to
place in Los Angeles?

MR. FITZWATER: We expect them to be there today.

Q Since there are all these National Guardsmen, the 4,000 who are still available if necessary, why did Governor Wilson request further federal support?

MR. FITZWATER: The Governor has been utilizing his resources as best he can and according to his own intelligence in the city. But he obviously felt that it would be important to have additional federal support for any contingency problem that might come up over the weekend.

MORE

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Q Do the federal troops have some ability that the National Guard does not have?

MR. FITZWATER: I think they're all qualified.

Q That wasn't what I --

Q But, Marlin, what -- can you give us a status report of the situation in other cities? Is there some concern that because of the violence spreading, that this needs to be done to send a signal?

MR. FITZWATER: I would have to refer you to the Governor for the basis for his request, but I think the situation there has been obvious to everyone. It's been difficult for two nights in a row and the Governor simply wants to take all steps necessary to bring the situation under control as rapidly as possible.

Q What about concerns in other cities, Marlin?

MR. FITZWATER: As I said, in the other cities there have been protests in a number of them, but they appear to be under control.

Q Are any other troops on alert elsewhere against the possibility of a spread? And what about that Justice Department report? How soon do you expect to get it?

MR. FITZWATER: We obviously have military forces at the ready and the regular Army all across the country. But at this point there's been no need to activate their use or to pinpoint them in any special way.

Q How about the Justice Department report? What about the urgency of that? You mentioned yesterday the urgency of the situation is clear. When do you expect that investigation to be continuing?

MR. FITZWATER: The Attorney General yesterday in his press conference explained the investigation that they were expediting and the timetable that they are working on. But that's dictated entirely by the legal process and the due process activities that they're involved in.

Q Did Mayor Bradley concur in bringing federal troops to Los Angeles?

MR. FITZWATER: Mayor Bradley was very appreciative and thanked the President for his support.

Q But the specific question of bringing federal troops in -- did he concur?

MR. FITZWATER: Yes, absolutely.

Q Marlin, what is the President hoping to get out of this meeting that he's holding right now and the other consultations that he's had overnight in terms of cooling this thing off and trying to --

MR. FITZWATER: This is a listening session. He wants to hear from leaders of various minority groups and from the small Business Administration and others that will be helping to reestablish order, to reestablish businesses, to help people readjust when this is over and to hopefully bring it to a swift conclusion.

MORE

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Let me take one more question.

Q Is the President declaring a national emergency? Under what authority does he act now? Is this an executive order or just a -- I mean, is he allowed to just do this as Commander in Chief?

MR. FITZWATER: The President is providing this assistance simply as President of the United States and the executive of the federal government. There is no proclamation here. We are not sending troops in in any federalized effort. And they will not be involved in the street patrols and other hostilities at this point.

Thank you very much.

END

10:40 A.M. EDT

#456-05/01

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

01-May-1992 06:14pm

TO: Sharon M. Botwin
FROM: Jean M. Bunton
Office of Communications
SUBJECT: New FACTS!!!!

New facts from Mayor Bradley's office -- Press Sec. Bunting corrected herself said firefighters fought under 4,000 fires --- not 5,000.

more to follow on injuries ASAP

jb



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

MAY 1 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR EDE HOLIDAY
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND SECRETARY OF THE CABINET

FROM:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant C. Peterson", is written over the "FROM:" label.

GRANT C. PETERSON

SUBJECT:

Situation Report: Los Angeles riots

Attached is a Situation Report on the Los Angeles riots.

If you need additional assistance or need additional information, please feel free to call us at 646-3692.



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

May 1, 1992
11:00 a.m. EDT

SITUATION REPORT #2

Civil Unrest in California

DATE AND TIME

OF OCCURRENCE: April 29, 1992

LOCATION: Los Angeles, California

1. SITUATION:

In the late afternoon on April 29, 1992, civil demonstrations of anger over the acquittal verdicts in the Rodney King case turned violent with fires set, businesses looted, people beaten, and loss of life. The primary area of disorder is in South Central Los Angeles.

Emergencies were declared in the City and County of Los Angeles on April 30 and a dusk to dawn curfew was imposed for the entire city of Los Angeles. The violent disorder continued through the day and evening of April 30. City and County law enforcement personnel were augmented by the CA Highway Patrol and the National Guard to restore order and protect firefighting personnel.

By approximately 3:30 a.m. EDT on Friday, May 1, 1992, there seemed to be a distinct change in the situation as officials began to get control. The curfew and concentration of law enforcement worked to significantly reduce the disturbance allowing firefighters to control fires. By 6:00 a.m. EDT local officials reported the situation was under control although many places in the City of Los Angeles are still unsafe.

2. ESTIMATE OF CASUALTIES:

Thirty deaths have been reported--29 in Los Angeles and 1 in San Bernadino. Approximately 900 people have been injured--149 have needed intensive care.

3. SEVERITY AND IMPACT ON POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS:

Los Angeles:

Firefighting: Approximately 1750 firefighters have been

involved in firefighting operations. City and county firefighters have fought 1,400 fires (1000 in the City of L.A.). At 7:00 a.m. EDT, only 6 are still burning. Operations were hindered by the lack of physical security for firefighters. Shots were fired at firefighters with an intent to injure or kill. Some were physically attacked using equipment taken from their trucks. To augment the firefighting capability, strike units were sent into the City of L.A. from other locations in the county and surrounding counties. The City deployed 88 engines, 38 ladder trucks, 20 paramedic units and had 36 mutual aid strike teams supporting local firefighters (A Strike Team is made-up of multiple engines, a ladder truck, a paramedic unit and a command officer.).

Law Enforcement. The California Highway Patrol mobilized 2200 officers to assist local police. An additional 700 will be brought in as relief. The LA County Sheriff's Department mobilized approximately 500 deputies.

Approximately 2600 National Guard troops were employed then augmented by an additional 2000. An additional 2000 troops have been requested bringing the total to 6000. At an early morning press conference the Mayor of Los Angeles and the Governor of California said that a delay in employing the National Guard was due to time needed to issue them ammunition. If the National Guard forces are not sufficient, the Governor has talked to the President who agreed to provide Federal law enforcement assistance if necessary. Armoured personnel carriers are being used. The California National Guard is providing infra-red air flights for damage assessment on the morning of May 1. The National Guard has provided 900 armored jacket to firefighters in LA City and another 500 in Orange County; a total of 3500 available if requested. Police are moving in "fleets" of a dozen cars for protection. The curfew and show of force seems to be working. The curfew seemed to be about 80% effective and most effective where there was strong police presence. Approximately 800 people have been arrested.

General:

The initial estimate of damage is \$124 million. This includes damage to about 25 county buildings, 9 postal facilities, and up to 75 buildings destroyed and 50 buildings with major damage.

Approximately 10,000 customers are without power. All utilities in Southern California have implemented their civil disturbance plans.

The Red Cross is operating shelters -- 200-250 people at an

AME Church and 100 people at Los Angeles High School-- were sheltered over night.

Delays of flights at LAX, some flights diverted.

Other Southern California Communities:.

There have also been isolated cases of looting and fires in other communities including Pamona, Pasadena, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Long Beach, San Bernadino, Baldwin Hills, Athens, Watts-Willowbrook, Lennox, and unincorporated areas of Compton.

San Francisco:

Demonstrations, originally peaceful, spilled onto the top deck of the Oakland Bay Bridge which was closed for a period. Violence broke out in the Union Square area. Fires were set but were mostly of a nuisance nature. Some looting occurred. Over 400 people were arrested. Approximately 5 people have been critically injured and 54 non-critically injured. The highway patrol mobilized a substantial number of officers to assist local officials. A state of emergency was declared for the City and County of San Francisco and instituted a curfew from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Thursday night. Damage included window breakage and minor fire damage. The Macy's store was entered and robbed. The Fairmont Hotel was reportedly overrun for a time. The BART system was shut down.

4. STATUS OF DECLARATIONS:

A local state of emergency was declared for Los Angeles City and County. The Governor also proclaimed a state of emergency.

San Francisco has also declared a State of Emergency for the City and County.

No Federal emergency or major disaster has been declared.

5. STATUS OF RESPONSE OPERATIONS:

State and Local:

California Office of Emergency Services personnel are operating from their locations in Sacramento and have co-located personnel at both the City and County of Los Angeles Emergency Operating Centers. A staging area for fire and law

enforcement personnel has been established at the Los Alamitos Armed Forces Center.

Federal:

The FEMA Assistant Associate Director, State and Local Programs activated the Emergency Support Function #5 of the Emergency Support Team at 2:30 p.m. EDT. The team will be operational on a 24-hour basis until further notice. Telephone numbers: (202) 646-2421; 2422 and 2423. FAX Number: (202) 646-2414.

FEMA Region IX initiated information and monitoring activities and opened their Regional Operation Center, Thursday morning, April 29. The Region has been in communications with the State and the other Federal agencies.

The FEMA Region IX Director is enroute to Los Angeles to meet with Patricia Saiki, Administrator of the Small Business Administration. Their itinerary for the day is attached.

A formal request for Federal law enforcement assistance was made by the Governor of California and the Mayor of Los Angeles. The President has announced that 1,000 law enforcement officials comprised of civilian police, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Border Patrol will be sent to the City of Los Angeles to assist State and local authorities. The President has also ordered 4,000 troops of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry at Fort Ord to be on stand-by alert.

Emergency Support Function 2.-- Communications requested priority for National Guard forces to guard three Pacific Bell and AT&T switches. The request was relayed to the State of California by the FEMA Region and the security was provided.

6. STATUS OF RECOVERY ACTIVITIES:

Region IX closed the Disaster Field Office at 235 South Robles Street in Pasadena due to concerns for the safety of employees. This DFO was handling the California Disaster DR-935.

7. STATUS OF ROUTINE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES:

Several county and city buildings were burned including the Department of Public Services building, two libraries, and twenty other county buildings.

Federal Offices in Los Angeles were closed and employees were told to stay home until further notice.

8. REPORTS OF RELATED ACTIVITY IN OTHER AREAS:

Atlanta, Georgia--peaceful demonstrations on April 29, turned violent in downtown Atlanta late in the afternoon, in the Underground Atlanta Area. The State Capitol was closed as well as the tourists area of underground Atlanta. Windows were broken and a pedestrian beaten.

Las Vegas, Nevada--a police station was fire bombed. A shopping center (center/west end of the city) one shopping center burned to the ground and firefighters were not able to respond due to estimated 2000 rounds fired. One hundred thirty law enforcement officers and a SWAT team were unable to provide safety to firefighters. The state declared an Emergency. A curfew from 11:30 a.m. local time to dawn has been imposed.

Disturbances were also reported in Seattle, WA, Madison, WI.

4/30/92

ITINERARY FOR SBA ADMINISTRATOR PATRICIA SAIKA
ACCOMPANIED BY FEMA REGION IX DIRECTOR BILL MEDIGOVICH

TOUR OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY FIRE/RIOT AREA

MAY 1, 1992

- 7:05 AM Mr. Medigovich and Mr. Nicholas Nikas, Chief, Emergency Management and National Preparedness Programs Division depart SFO, via United #1257.
- 8:15 AM Arrive Burbank airport. Mr. Medigovich and Mr. Nikas will be met at the arrival gate by Mr. Alberto Alvarado, SBA Counsel, LA District. Contact telephone for SBA LA District Office (213) 894-2977; Fax: (213) 894-5665.
- 8:30 AM Depart Burbank for City of LA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) briefing.
- 9:00 AM Arrive City Hall East. Mrs. Patricia Saika, SBA Administrator and Mr. Oscar Wright, SBA Regional Administrator, will join Mr. Medigovich at City Hall. Situation briefing and damage assessment to be provided by Shirley Mattingly, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and EOC Commander.
- Location: City of Los Angeles - City Hall East
200 N. Main Street, Room 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 485-6400 FAX: (213) 687-8213
- Participants: Patricia Saika, SBA Administrator
Oscar Wright, SBA Regional Administrator
Bill Medigovich, FEMA Regional Director
Nick Nikas, FEMA Chief, EMNPP Division
Shirley Mattingly, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, LA City
SBA Representatives
LA City Representatives
- 9:45 AM Depart for LA City Hall East Heliport. Tour to be provided for 5 principle participants listed above.
- 10:00 AM Fly-over of fire/riot area; observation of serious impact on businesses in area.
- 10:45 AM Return to LA City Hall.
- 11:00 AM Meeting with LA City Deputy Mayor Linda Griego. Briefing to be provided on the Mayor's Rebuilding Task Force for recovery and reconstruction of the disaster area. Assessment of "where we are at and where we are going".

-2-

11:30 AM Meeting with LA City Mayor Tom Bradley.
12:00 N LUNCH
1:00 PM Afternoon itinerary open. Opportunity provided for follow-up as required with the City of Los Angeles.
4:00 PM Mr. Medigovich and Mr. Nikas depart LA City Hall for LAX.
5:00 PM Depart LAX via US Air # 423.
6:08 PM Arrive SFO.

Additional Contact Information:

Mr. Oscar Wright Radisson Plaza Hotel
SBA Regional Admin. Rosecrans/Sepulveda
 Manhattan Beach, CA
 (310) 546-7511 FAX: (310) 546-7520
 Cellular: (415) 269-9567

Mr. Alberto Alvarado, home telephone (213) 256-3727.
SBA District Counsel

May 1, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN

FROM: JAG

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ACTION ON L.A. SITUATION

Spoke to M.K. Material on what we will do was considered too sensitive (by Barr) to be directly sent to us -- it was faxed to Skinner and now Dave is getting it directly from him. She did read me over the phone what we have done up to this point. As follows:

- 1 o Immediately following the case, Dept. of Justice resumed investigation into the Los Angeles case.
- 2 o The night of the verdict, the Community Relations Service (CRS) -- a justice team of 10 conciliators -- went to L.A.
- 3 o Thursday, associate A.G. Wayne Budd (overseeing investigation) sent to L.A. with a lawyer from his own staff and 5 federal civil rights division prosecutors.

4 Point for -- see brackets in speech.

Talking points:

- Two nights ago, violence erupted all over Los Angeles in reaction to the verdict in the case of the police officers charged in the beating of Rodney King. The verdict shocked a nation, but so did the senseless acts of violence that broke out in response -- violence which has already claimed ___ lives and injured many more people. We have seen videotaped tragedies played out on television screens, and we have been forced to confront some of the ugliest and most frightening evils in our society: racism, violence, rage, lawlessness, and cynicism about our system of law and justice.
- I responded immediately.
- Yesterday, I phoned Gov. Wilson and Mayor Bradley, and offered to lend whatever assistance the state wanted or needed to quell the violence.
- In addition, the Department of Justice will continue its criminal investigation of the police violence case in Los Angeles, to ensure that the civil rights laws of our nation are enforced equally and fully.
- I also dispatched Pat Saiki, Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to examine the impact of the looting and violence upon small businesses. We are prepared to offer aid, such as loans, and technical assistance.
- This morning, I met with Attorney General Bill Barr and Director of the FBI William Sessions to receive an update on this matter.
- I grieve for the many people victimized by the brutality in Los Angeles and elsewhere -- families who lost loved ones, people who lost jobs because mobs destroyed their workplaces and businesses. There is no excuse for the wanton destruction of property or cold-blooded murder in the streets.
- I also want to praise the many brave people who did stand up to the violence and looting, and who saved lives in the process. These people showed the true strength and greatness of America.
- For many Americans, the events of this week have revived painful memories of the summer of 1968, when violence raged and a nation mourned fallen leaders. Violence has spilled over into other cities, such as Atlanta. We must bring this senseless violence to an end. Together, we must condemn violence, and promote respect for the rule of law -- and for our fellow women and men.
- We must assure all citizens of this great country that there is no room for bigotry and racism in the American conscience. We will not let this tragedy drive us apart.

- Each one of us plays a role in fighting racism, bigotry, anti-Semitism. We should spend more time talking about old-fashioned values that all of us take for granted: respect for each other's rights; respect for property rights; a determination to show our commitment to harmony.

- We also have a duty to reach out to Americans who have been shocked, frightened and hurt by these events. We must help them believe again in our country and in ourselves.

- Every one of us has a leadership position, and we all have a responsibility to lead by example. We have had our differences in the past, and we will have some in the future. But now, we should pull together. Let us set aside our differences, and complete a mission to wipe away the scourges of racism, bigotry, hatred and suspicion.

[[• I will set an example by speaking out, and by looking for ways to wipe away laws, and to resist practices and institutions that divide us by race, religion, or background.]]

- I want you to contribute to constructive courses of action. I want you to work with us to heal America's wounds. Together we can forge a real and lasting foundation for progress.

(DDDMF)
May 1, 1992
Draft Three
LA

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS ON CIVIL DISORDER IN LOS ANGELES
MAY 1, 1992
9:00 PM

Tonight I want to talk to you about violence in our cities, and justice for our citizens. Two big issues that have collided on the streets of Los Angeles.

First, an update on where matters stand in Los Angeles. Fifteen minutes ago I talked to California's Governor Pete Wilson and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. They told me that last night was better than the night before -- today calmer than yesterday - - but there were still incidents of random terror and lawlessness this afternoon.

In the wake of the first night's violence, I spoke directly to both Governor Wilson and Mayor Bradley -- to assess the situation, and to offer assistance.

There are two very different issues at hand. One is the urgent need to restore order. What followed Wednesday's jury verdict in the Rodney King case, was a tragic series of events for the city of Los Angeles: ^{about} 4,000 fires, staggering property damage, ^{hundreds} thousands of injuries, and the senseless deaths of over thirty people.

So to restore order, right now, there are 3000 National Guardsmen on duty in the City of Los Angeles. Another 2200 stand ready to provide immediate support.



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to my grandchildren? Civil rights leaders and just plain citizens fearful of -- and sometimes victimized by police brutality were deeply hurt. I know good and decent policemen who were equally appalled.

I spoke this morning to many leaders of the civil rights community. They saw the video, as we all did. For fourteen months, they waited. Patiently. Hopefully. They waited for the system to work. When the verdict came in, they felt betrayed.

Viewed from outside the trial, it was hard to understand how the verdict could possibly square with the video. Those civil rights leaders with whom I met were stunned. So was I. So was Barbara. So were my kids.

~~But the verdict Wednesday was not the end of the process.~~

The Department of Justice had started its own investigation immediately after the Rodney King incident and was monitoring the state investigation and trial. So let me tell you what actions we are taking on the federal level to ensure that justice is served. Within one hour of the verdict, I directed the Justice Department to move into high gear on its own independent criminal investigation into the case.

Next, on Thursday, five federal prosecutors were on their way to Los Angeles. Our Justice Department has consistently demonstrated its ability to investigate fully a matter like this. Since 1988 the Justice Department has successfully prosecuted over 100 law enforcement officials for excessive violence. I'm

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There are two very different issues at hand. One is the question of whether the civil rights of Rodney King were violated. So let me tell you what actions we are taking on the federal level to ensure that justice is served.

The verdict Wednesday was not the end of the process.

Within one hour of the verdict, I directed the Justice Department to move into high gear on its own federal criminal investigation into the King case.

On Thursday, [at my direction], Associate Attorney General Wayne Budd was immediately dispatched to Los Angeles with five federal civil rights division prosecutors. Our Justice Department has often demonstrated its ability to fully investigate a matter like this. In the last _____ the Justice Department has successfully prosecuted _____ of police violence cases. I'm confident that in this case, the Department of Justice will act as it should as well.

The federal effort in this case will be swift -- and it will be fair. It will not be driven by mob violence, but by respect for due process and the rule of law.

We owe it to all Americans who put their faith in the law to see that justice is served. But as we move forward on this or any other case, we must remember the fundamental tenet of our legal system: every American is entitled to his or her rights.

Beyond the question of civil rights, there is the urgent need to restore order. What followed Wednesday's jury verdict in the city of Los Angeles was a tragic series of events: 1,500

Dan
Levin
514-
3892

Ponder

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behind the wheel of his truck and tried to drive away. But his eyes were swollen shut. The woman asked him if he could see. He answered no. She said, "Well, then I will be your eyes."

Together, those four people braved the mob and drove that truck driver to the hospital. He is alive today -- only because they stepped in to help.

It is for every one of them that we must rebuild the community of Los Angeles -- for these four people and the others like them who in the midst of this nightmare acted with simple human decency.

We must understand that no one in Los Angeles or any other city has rendered a verdict on America. If we are to remain the most vibrant and hopeful nation on earth we must allow our diversity to bind us together, not drive us apart. This must be the rallying cry of good and decent people.

For their sake, for all our sakes: We must build a future where in every city across this country, empty rage gives way to hope -- where poverty and despair give way to opportunity. We must keep on working to create a climate of understanding and tolerance. We must not tolerate racism, bigotry, anti-semitism, and hate of any kind, anytime, anywhere.

This weekend, I ask all Americans to lend their hearts, their voices, and their prayers to the healing of hatred. As President I took an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution -- an oath that requires every President to

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JAB/DOJ
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Beyond the question of civil rights, there is the urgent need to restore order. [What followed Wednesday's jury verdict in the city of Los Angeles was a tragic series of events: 1,⁰500

just under 4,000

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Today, to supplement this effort, I've taken several additional actions. First, I have ordered the Justice Department to dispatch 1000 Federal riot-trained law enforcement officials to help restore order in Los Angeles -- beginning tonight. These officials include FBI SWAT teams, special riot control units of the U.S. Marshals Service, the Border Patrol, and other federal law enforcement agencies.

Second, another 1000 Federal Law Enforcement officials are on stand by alert should they be needed.

Third, I ~~have authorized~~ ^{directed} 3000 members of the 7th Infantry, and 1500 Marines to stand by at El Toro Air Station, California, available for duty this evening. And in the event these troops are sent in, I am prepared to Federalize the National Guard.

What we saw last night and the night before in Los Angeles is not about civil rights. It is not about the great cause of equality that all Americans must uphold. It is not a message of protest. It is now the brutality of a mob -- pure and simple.

Let me assure you, I will use whatever force is necessary to restore order. What is going on in L.A. must and will stop. As your President, I guarantee you this violence will end.

Now let us talk about the beating of Rodney King. Because, beyond the urgent need to restore order is the second issue: the question of whether the actions of the police violated Rodney King's federal civil rights.

What you saw and what I saw on the TV video was revolting. I felt anger. I felt pain. I thought: How can I explain this

3

to my grandchildren? Civil rights leaders and just plain citizens fearful of and sometimes victimized by police brutality were deeply hurt. I know good and decent policemen who were equally appalled.

I spoke this morning to many leaders of the civil rights community. They saw the video, as we all did. For fourteen months, they waited. Patiently. Hopefully. They waited for the system to work. When the verdict came in, they felt betrayed.

Viewed from outside the trial, it was hard to understand how the verdict could possibly square with the video. Those civil rights leaders with whom I met were stunned. So was I. So was Barbara. So were my kids.

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Federal grand jury action is underway today in Los Angeles. Subpoenas have been issued. Evidence is being reviewed.

The federal effort in this case will be swift -- and it will be fair. It will not be driven by mob violence, but by respect for due process and the rule of law.

We owe it to all Americans who put their faith in the law to see that justice is served. But as we move forward on this or any other case, we must remember the fundamental tenet of our legal system: every American, whether accused, or accuser, is entitled to protection of his or her rights.

In this highly controversial court case a verdict was handed down by a California jury. To Americans of all races who were shocked by the verdict, let me say this: you must understand that our system of justice provides for the peaceful, orderly means of addressing this frustration. We must respect the process of law whether or not we agree with the outcome. There is a difference between frustration with the law and direct assaults upon it.

In a civilized society, there can be no excuse -- no excuse -- for the murder, arson, theft, and vandalism that have terrorized the law-abiding citizens of ^{SOUTH-CENTRAL} ~~East~~ Los Angeles.

The wanton destruction of life and property is not a legitimate expression of outrage with injustice -- it is itself injustice. And no rationalization, no matter how heart-felt, no matter how eloquent, can make it otherwise.

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Among the many stories I've seen and heard about these past few days, one sticks in my mind. The story of one savagely beaten white truck driver -- alive tonight because four strangers, four black strangers, came to his aid. Two were men who had been watching television and saw the beating as it was happening, and came out into the street to help. Another was a woman on her way home from work -- the fourth, a young man whose name we may never know. The injured driver was able to get behind the wheel of his truck and tried to drive away. But his eyes were swollen shut. The woman asked him if he could see. He answered no. She said, "Well, then I will be your eyes."

Together, those four people braved the mob and drove that truck driver to the hospital. He is alive today -- only because they stepped in to help. *When people need help race doesn't matter.*

It is for every one of them that we must rebuild the community of Los Angeles -- for these four people and the others like them who in the midst of this nightmare acted with simple human decency.

We must understand that no one in Los Angeles or any other city has rendered a verdict on America. If we are to remain the most vibrant and hopeful nation on earth we must allow our diversity to bring us together, not drive us apart. This must be the rallying cry of good and decent people.

For their sake, for all our sakes: We must build a future where in every city across this country, empty rage gives way to hope -- where poverty and despair give way to opportunity. Even

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after peace is restored to Los Angeles, we must then turn again to the underlying causes of such tragic events. Racism is on the rise in our country. It must be stopped. We must keep on working to create a climate of understanding and tolerance -- a climate that refuses to accept racism, bigotry, anti-semitism, and hate of any kind, anytime, anywhere.

Tonight, I ask all Americans to lend their hearts, their voices, and their prayers to the healing of hatred. As President I took an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution -- an oath that requires every President to establish justice and insure domestic tranquility. That duty is foremost in my mind tonight.

Let me say to the people saddened by the spectacle of the past few days -- to the good people of Los Angeles, caught at the center of this senseless suffering: The violence will end. Justice will be served. Hope will return.

Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

#

Nat'l guard

LA 3059 on street

2240 standing by

Troops 2 other states

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472. Las Vegas

Maj Barrineau

Army Nat'l Guard
include Air Nat'l
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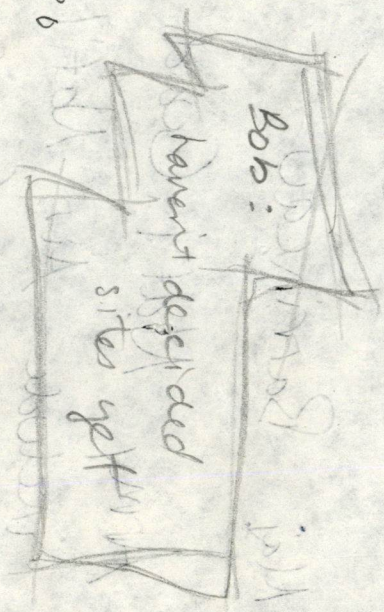
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Michael
(DDDMAF)
May 1, 1992
Draft Three
LA

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS ON CIVIL DISORDER IN LOS ANGELES
MAY 1, 1992
9:00 PM

Tonight, my heart goes out to those who have felt betrayed by a system of justice that seemed to have gone wrong -- and to those who have suffered since from the angry reaction of a frustrated and misguided mob.

Two days ago, in a highly controversial court case, a verdict was handed down by a California jury. To Americans of all races who were shocked by the verdict, let me say this. I spoke this morning to many leaders of the civil rights community. They saw the video of Rodney King being beaten by the police, as did the rest of us. For fourteen months, they waited. Patiently. Hopefully. They waited for the system to work. When the verdict came in, they felt betrayed.

Viewed from outside the trial, it was hard to understand how the verdict could possibly square with the video. Those civil rights leaders with whom I met were stunned. So was I. So was Barbara. So were my kids. But those shocked and angered by this outcome must understand: our system of justice provides for the peaceful, orderly means of addressing this frustration. But we must respect the process of law whether or not we agree with the

outcome. There is a difference between frustration with the law and direct assaults upon it.

There are two very different issues at hand. One is the question of whether the actions of the police violated Rodney King's federal civil rights. So let me tell you what actions we are taking on the federal level to ensure that justice is served.

The verdict Wednesday was not the end of the process. Within one hour of the verdict, I directed the Justice Department to move into high gear on its own independent criminal investigation into the case.

On Thursday, at my direction, Associate Attorney General Wayne Budd was immediately dispatched to Los Angeles with five federal civil rights division prosecutors. Our Justice Department has often demonstrated its ability to investigate fully a matter like this. In the last _____ the Justice Department has successfully prosecuted _____ of police violence cases. I'm confident that in this case, the Department of Justice will act as it should.

Federal grand jury action is underway today in Los Angeles. Subpoenas have been issued. Evidence is being reviewed.

The federal effort in this case will be swift -- and it will be fair. It will not be driven by mob violence, but by respect for due process and the rule of law.

We owe it to all Americans who put their faith in the law to see that justice is served. But as we move forward on this or any other case, we must remember the fundamental tenet of our

legal system: every American is entitled to protection of his or her rights.

Beyond the question of civil rights, there is a second fundamental issue: the urgent need to restore order. What followed Wednesday's jury verdict in the city of Los Angeles was a tragic series of events: 1,500 fires, staggering property damage, thousands of injuries, and the senseless deaths of over thirty people.

An innocent truck driver, chosen at random, was pulled out of his cab in broad daylight. He was punched, kicked -- beaten to the point of unconsciousness, robbed, and left to bleed in the street. The brutality we saw on our television sets was as sickening as it was terrifying.

What is going on now in Los Angeles is not about civil rights. It is not about the great cause of equality that all Americans must uphold. It is not a message of protest. It is now the barbarism of a mob -- pure and simple.

What is going on in L.A. must and will stop. Order will be restored to the streets of Los Angeles.

In a civilized society, there can be no excuse -- no excuse -- for the murder, arson, theft, and vandalism that have terrorized the law-abiding citizens of East Los Angeles.

The wanton destruction of life and property is not a legitimate expression of outrage with injustice -- it is itself injustice. And no rationalization, no matter how heart-felt, no matter how eloquent, can make it otherwise. In the wake of the

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first night's violence, I spoke directly with California Pete Wilson, and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley -- to assess the situation, and to offer assistance.

Right now, there are [1400] National Guardsmen on duty in the City of Los Angeles. Another [1200] stand ready to provide immediate support.

Today, to supplement this effort to restore order, I've taken several additional actions. First, I have ordered the Justice Department to dispatch 1000 Federal riot-trained law enforcement officials to help restore order in Los Angeles -- beginning tonight. These officials include FBI SWAT teams, special riot control units of the U.S. Marshal Service, the Border Patrol, and other federal law enforcement agencies.

Second, another 1000 Federal Law Enforcement officials are on stand by alert should they be needed.

Third, I have authorized 3000 members of the 7th Infantry, and 1500 Marines to stand by at El Toro Air Station, California, available for duty this evening. And in the event these troops are sent in, I am prepared to Federalize the National Guard.

Television has become a medium that often brings us together. But its vivid display of Rodney King's beating shocked us. Its sudden rendering of the jury's verdict tore us apart. And the America it has shown us on our screens these last 48 hours has appalled us. None of this is what we wish to think of as American. It is as if we were looking in a mirror that

DOD

DOD General
John Heldstab
695-0526

3059

2,240

2,500 in a support
role

Dan
Levin
Chief of Staff
514-3892
Bill
Baker
Changes
to Rosen
Porter

DOD
General Heldstab
will stand
by 3,000
+ 1,500

distorted our better selves and turned us ugly. We cannot let that happen. We cannot do that to ourselves.

We have seen images in the last 48 hours that we will never forget. Some were horrifying almost beyond belief. But there were other acts -- small, but significant acts in all this ugliness that give us hope: People who have spent each night not in the streets, but in the churches of east Los Angeles -- praying that man's gentler instincts be revealed in the hearts of people driven by hate. There were the citizens who showed great personal responsibility -- who ignored the mob -- who at great personal danger, helped the victims of violence -- regardless of race.

Among the many stories I've seen and heard about these past few days, one sticks in my mind. The story of one savagely beaten white truck driver -- alive tonight because four strangers, four black strangers, came to his aid. Two were men who had been watching television and saw the beating as it was happening, and came out into the street to help. Another was a woman on her way home from work -- the fourth, a young man whose name we may never know. Together, those four people braved the mob and drove that truck driver to the hospital. He is alive today -- only because they stepped in to help.

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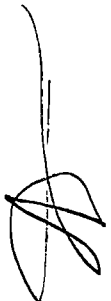
This weekend, I ask all Americans to lend their hearts, their voices, and their prayers to the healing of hatred. As President I took an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution -- an oath that requires every President to establish justice and insure domestic tranquility. That duty is foremost in my mind tonight.

Let me say to the people saddened by the spectacle of the past few days -- to the good people of East Los Angeles, caught at the center of this senseless suffering: The violence will end. Justice will be served. Hope will return.

Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

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VIEWS FROM OUTSIDE THE TRIAL, IT WAS HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE VERDICT COULD POSSIBLY SQUARE WITH THE VIDEO. THOSE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS WITH WHOM I MET WERE STUNNED. SO WAS I. SO WAS BARBARA. SO WERE MY KIDS.



BUT THE VERDICT WEDNESDAY WAS NOT THE END OF THE PROCESS. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAD STARTED ITS OWN INVESTIGATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE RODNEY KING INCIDENT AND WAS MONITORING THE STATE INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL. SO LET ME TELL YOU WHAT ACTIONS WE ARE TAKING ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO ENSURE THAT JUSTICE IS SERVED. WITHIN ONE HOUR OF THE VERDICT, I DIRECTED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO MOVE INTO HIGH GEAR ON ITS OWN INDEPENDENT CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE CASE.



(DDDMAF)
May 1, 1992
Draft Three
LA

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS ON CIVIL DISORDER IN LOS ANGELES
MAY 1, 1992
9:00 PM

Tonight I want to talk to you about violence in our cities, and justice for our citizens. Two big issues that have collided on the streets of Los Angeles.

First, an update on where matters stand in Los Angeles. Fifteen minutes ago I talked to California's Governor Pete Wilson and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. They told me that last night was better than the night before -- today calmer than yesterday - - but there were still incidents of random terror and lawlessness this afternoon.

In the wake of the first night's violence, I spoke directly to both Governor Wilson and Mayor Bradley -- to assess the situation, and to offer assistance.

There are two very different issues at hand. One is the urgent need to restore order. What followed Wednesday's jury verdict in the Rodney King case was a tragic series of events for the city of Los Angeles: nearly 4,000 fires, staggering property damage, hundreds of injuries, and the senseless deaths of over thirty people.

To restore order, right now, there are 3000 National Guardsmen on duty in the City of Los Angeles. Another 2200 stand ready to provide immediate support.


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Today, to supplement this effort, I've taken several additional actions. First, I have ordered the Justice Department to dispatch 1000 Federal riot-trained law enforcement officials to help restore order in Los Angeles -- beginning tonight. These officials include FBI SWAT teams, special riot control units of the U.S. Marshals Service, the Border Patrol, and other federal law enforcement agencies.

Second, another 1000 Federal Law Enforcement officials are on stand by alert should they be needed.

Third, I have directed 3000 members of the 7th Infantry, and 1500 Marines to stand by at El Toro Air Station, California, available for duty this evening. And in the event these troops are sent in, I am prepared to Federalize the National Guard.

What we saw last night and the night before in Los Angeles is not about civil rights. It is not about the great cause of equality that all Americans must uphold. It is not a message of protest. It is now the brutality of a mob -- pure and simple.

Let me assure you, I will use whatever force is necessary to restore order. What is going on in L.A. must and will stop. As your President, I guarantee you this violence will end.

Now let us talk about the beating of Rodney King. Because, beyond the urgent need to restore order is the second issue: the question of justice -- whether the actions of the police violated Rodney King's federal civil rights.

What you saw and what I saw on the TV video was revolting. I felt anger. I felt pain. I thought: How can I explain this



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confident that in this case, the Department of Justice will act as it should.

Federal grand jury action is underway today in Los Angeles. Subpoenas have been issued. Evidence is being reviewed.

The federal effort in this case will be swift -- and it will be fair. It will not be driven by mob violence, but by respect for due process and the rule of law.

We owe it to all Americans who put their faith in the law to see that justice is served. But as we move forward on this or any other case, we must remember the fundamental tenet of our legal system: every American, whether accused, or accuser, is entitled to protection of his or her rights.

In this highly controversial court case a verdict was handed down by a California jury. To Americans of all races who were shocked by the verdict, let me say this: you must understand that our system of justice provides for the peaceful, orderly means of addressing this frustration. We must respect the process of law whether or not we agree with the outcome. There is a difference between frustration with the law and direct assaults upon our legal system.

In a civilized society, there can be no excuse -- no excuse -- for the murder, arson, theft, and vandalism that have terrorized the law-abiding citizens of Los Angeles.

The wanton destruction of life and property is not a legitimate expression of outrage with injustice -- it is itself

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injustice. And no rationalization, no matter how heart-felt, no matter how eloquent, can make it otherwise.

Television has become a medium that often brings us together. But its vivid display of Rodney King's beating shocked us. And the America it has shown us on our screens these last 48 hours has appalled us. None of this is what we wish to think of as American. It is as if we were looking in a mirror that distorted our better selves and turned us ugly. We cannot let that happen. We cannot do that to ourselves.

We have seen images in the last 48 hours that we will never forget. Some were horrifying almost beyond belief. But there were other acts -- small, but significant acts in all this ugliness that give us hope: I'm one who respects our police. They keep the peace. They face danger every day. They help kids. They don't make a lot of money -- but they care about their communities and their country. Thousands of police officers are risking their lives right now on the streets of L.A. and they deserve our support.

Then there are the people who have spent each night not in the streets, but in the churches of ^{South Central} east Los Angeles -- praying that man's gentler instincts be revealed in the hearts of people driven by hate. Finally, there were the citizens who showed great personal responsibility -- who ignored the mob -- who at great personal danger, helped the victims of violence -- regardless of race.

Beaten Driver a Searing Image of Mob Cruelty

21/20/22

By LAURIE BECKLUND
and STEPHANIE CHAVEZ
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

At every watershed through time, it seems a face emerges to transfix a moment in history. In Vietnam, a naked girl fled napalm. In Tian An Men Square, a single student stared down a line of Chinese tanks. In Los Angeles last year, Rodney G. King lay prone and beaten.

Now, a white cement truck driver beaten nearly into oblivion in South-Central Los Angeles has become the face on the flip side of the Rodney King coin, the unofficial black-on-white response to the official white-on-black beating.

His name is Reginald Oliver Denny. He is 36. He is alive because four strangers—four black strangers from the very crowd that had beaten him nearly to death—emerged to drive his unwieldy 18-wheeler out of pandemonium to safety.

The rescuers were two women and two men: a young nutrition consultant, a laid-off data control worker, an unemployed aerospace worker and a still-unidentified young man in black whose fellow rescuers first feared was a gang-banger coming to finish Denny off.

"Those people didn't even know him and risked their lives to aid him," said Don Kelley, 28, Denny's roommate. "If no one had helped him, he would be dead."

The rescue came almost too late—as long as 20 to 30 minutes after the beating. At least two of the rescuers found themselves lured to the scene by the power of television pictures, broadcast live from near the intersection of Normandie and Florence avenues.

"We were watching TV at home," said T.J. Murphy, 30, the aerospace engineer. "Somebody's got to get that guy out of there, we said to each other."

They assumed police would help the man, but got in their car to drive over for a look at the brewing neighborhood confrontation.

When they arrived, the police were nowhere to be seen at the site, where a television cameraman, shooting from a helicopter, had captured that image of Denny being beaten by angry thugs.

Instead, the gravely injured man—his face awash in blood and his eyes swollen shut—had somehow managed to get back behind the wheel and was now trying to make his getaway an inch at a time.

Braving hostile onlookers, stalled cars and general chaos, Murphy and his friend joined two others who eventually helped deliver Denny to the door of the Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital emergency room. Just as the big rig drove up to the door, Denny went into convulsions and started spitting up blood.

"One more minute, just one more minute, and he would have been dead," one of his rescuers said a paramedic told him at the door.

The incident started a couple of hours after a white jury acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of beating King. Denny, a \$16.70-an-hour driver, had been dispatched from an Azusa quarry at 5:39 p.m. just as news of the acquittal was getting out.

His job was routine: to deliver 27 tons of sand to an Inglewood cement mixing plant. His red cab pulled two loaded bins. He took the usual route, San Bernardino Freeway west, south on the Harbor, off at Florence.

About 6:30 p.m. the rig trundled to the intersection where the first violence had erupted—bottle and rock throwing, overturned trash cans. As Denny slowed in the midst of the melee, the rig was surrounded by about five black men.

As thousands watched at home on their television sets, one rioter yanked open the truck door and pulled Denny from his cab. At least two others beat his head and kicked him, knocking him to the asphalt. After kicking him, one man raised up his hands and waved to the watching crowd. Denny tried to move, turning on his side. Another man then bashed Denny's skull with a fire extinguisher from the truck.

As he lay on the ground, another man walked up and for about eight seconds rifled through his pockets, sprinting away with Denny's wallet.

By the time T.J. Murphy, 30, arrived with his friend Tee Barnett, 28, the pair saw no choice but to intervene. "It was just like Rodney King," Murphy said. "They beat, beat and beat him."

A young nutrition consultant on her way home from work had already jumped into the fray. As the injured Denny tried desperately to drive his rig out of the war zone, she hoisted herself onto the side of the truck and was shouting steering instructions to Denny, whose eyes were swollen shut. To the right, she would yell, now to the left.

As the truck inched forward, a black clad young man—who Murphy initially thought was a gang member—jumped in the driver's seat of the truck. The consultant climbed inside the cab to console the injured man, and Murphy took over the job of guiding the new driver, who was unable to see through the shattered windshield.

"You're going make it," the consultant kept telling Denny, even as she had to hold him upright. "You're going to be OK."

As the black-clad driver tried desperately to speed up the awkward, heavy rig, Barnett drove in front of the truck, putting on her hazard lights to try to clear the way.

Eventually, the truck sped up to 40 m.p.h and inched toward 50. After a trip that seemed to take hours, the rig screeched into the driveway at Daniel Freeman hospital.

Twenty miles away in Covina, Jerry Cole, Denny's next-door neighbor and friend, was riveted to

the television, watching the mayhem in Los Angeles streets. And then he noticed the long blond hair, the red cab and a pair of familiar black boots.

"My heart sank to my stomach. It was Reggie," Cole said.

Denny's roommate was horrified by the same televised scene.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing," said roommate Don Kelley, 28. "He was just lying there. No one was helping. We got two baseball bats and said 'Let's go get him.'"

Shelly Montez, 29, Denny's former wife, found out about the incident from her mother, who also had recognized Denny on TV. At one point she heard a news report of a death at Daniel Freeman hospital.

"I can't tell you what I felt like to have to make that call to the hospital," said Montez, of Santa Clarita. "I never felt so overwhelmed with emotion."

Montez kept their daughter Ashley from the television, telling her only that "daddy happened to be in the middle of big fight and people took their anger out on him."

Denny underwent three hours of emergency brain surgery about midnight to remove two blood clots. By daybreak he had stabilized, Montez said. He was in critical but stable condition Thursday afternoon.

"We got the most wonderful news this morning," she said Thursday. "He can squeeze his hands and wiggle his feet. He nodded 'no' when a nurse asked him if he was in pain."

When Denny's neighbor and roommate reached the hospital, they could barely recognize their friend. Cole said Denny's head was swollen like a "big round ball of water." His fingers and arms were crusted with blood. His eyes were swollen shut, a respirator tube jammed down his throat.

"I told him everything was going to be OK. We care about him, we love him," Kelley said. He believed that Denny heard him and saw a tear that rolled from his right eye.

In the end, Denny's friends and rescuers reached out to find each other—his rescuers in hopes of finding out how Denny had fared, and his family in hopes of thanking them.

"We found out that both Denny and I had 8-year-old daughters," said Barnett on Thursday.

"Black boys playing with white boys—that's what Dr. King talked about. Working together. Playing together. But his dream doesn't stand a chance, does it? Not until people learn to get along. Evidently, we're not living the same dream."

1,600 seven damaged businesses
3,600 is about near (number)
(note)

Burning #5
Mayor's office

Draft 2
4 pm

(DDDMAF)
May 1, 1992
Draft Two
LA

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS ON CIVIL DISORDER IN LOS ANGELES
MAY 1, 1992
9:00 PM

Tonight, my heart goes out to those who have felt betrayed by a system of justice that seemed to have gone wrong -- and to those who have suffered since from the angry reaction of a frustrated and misguided mob.

Wednesday 29 April 1992 ← Two days ago, in a highly publicized and controversial court case, a verdict was handed down by a California jury. To Americans of all races who were shocked by the verdict, let me say this. ^{at the White House} I spoke this morning to many leaders of the civil rights community. They saw the video of Rodney King being beaten by the police, as did the rest of us. ^{from March 3, 1991 - April 92} For fourteen months, they waited. Patiently. Hopefully. They waited for the system to work. When the verdict came in, they felt betrayed.

We all felt it hard to comprehend how the verdict could possibly square with the video. Those civil rights leaders were stunned. So was I. So was Barbara. So were my kids. But those ashamed and angered by this outcome must understand: our system of justice provides for the peaceful, orderly means of addressing this frustration. There is a difference between frustration with the law and direct assaults upon it.

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hundred's

fires, staggering property damage, thousands of injuries, and the senseless deaths of over thirty people.

✓ An innocent truck driver, chosen at random, was pulled out of his cab in broad daylight. He was punched, kicked -- beaten to the point of unconsciousness, robbed, and left to bleed in the street. The brutality we saw on our television sets was as sickening as it was terrifying.

What is going on now in Los Angeles is not about civil rights. It is not about the great cause of equality that all Americans must uphold. It is not a message of protest. It is now the barbarism of a mob -- pure and simple.

What is going on in L.A. must and will stop. Order will be restored to the streets of Los Angeles.

In a civilized society, there can be no excuse -- no excuse -- for the murder, arson, theft, and vandalism that have terrorized the law-abiding citizens of East Los Angeles.

The wanton destruction of life and property is not a legitimate expression of outrage with injustice -- it is itself injustice. And no rationalization, no matter how heart-felt, no matter how eloquent, can make it otherwise. ~~At~~ In the wake of the first night's violence, I spoke directly with California Pete Wilson, and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley -- to assess the situation, and to offer assistance.

Right now, there are [1400] National Guardsmen on duty in the City of Los Angeles. Another [1200] stand ready to provide immediate support.

4

Today, to supplement this effort to restore order, I've taken several additional actions. First, I have ordered the Justice Department to dispatch [1000] Federal riot-trained law enforcement officials to help restore order in Los Angeles -- begin ning tonight. These officials include SWAT teams and riot police, members of the Border Patrol and Bureau of Prisons and the U.S. Marshall Service.

Second, another [750] Federal Law Enforcement officials are on stand by alert should they be needed.

Third, I have authorized [4000] members of the 8th Infantry to stand by at Fort Ord, California. In the event they are needed, they are available for duty this evening as well. And in the event these troops are sent in, I am prepared to Federalize the National Guard.

We have seen images in the last 72 hours that we will never forget. Some were horrifying almost beyond belief. But there were other acts -- small, but significant acts in all this ugliness that give us hope: People who have spent each night not in the streets, but in the churches of east Los Angeles -- praying that man's gentler instincts be revealed in the hearts of people driven by hate. Citizens who ignored the mob -- who at great personal danger, helped the victims of violence -- regardless of race.

Among the many stories I've seen and heard about these past few days, one sticks in my mind. The story of one savagely beaten white truck driver -- alive tonight because four

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strangers, four black strangers, came to his aid. Two were men who had been watching television and saw the beating as it was happening, and came out into the street to help. Another was a woman on her way home from work -- the fourth, a young man whose name we may never know. Together, those four people braved the mob and drove that truck driver to the hospital. He is alive today -- only because they stepped in to help.

It is for every one of them that we must rebuild the community of Los Angeles -- for these four people and the others like them who in the midst of this nightmare acted with simple human decency.

We must understand that no one in Los Angeles or any other city has rendered a verdict on America. If we are to remain the most vibrant and hopeful nation on earth we must allow our diversity to bind us together, not drive us apart. This must be the rallying cry of good and decent people.

For their sake, for all our sakes: We must build a future where in every city across this country, empty rage gives way to hope -- where poverty and despair give way to opportunity. We must keep on working to create a climate of understanding and tolerance. We must not tolerate racism, bigotry, anti-semitism, and hate of any kind, anytime, anywhere.

This Sunday, I ask all Americans to lend their hearts and their voices to the healing of hatred.

Tonight, let me say to the people sickened by the spectacle of the past few days -- to the good people of East Los Angeles,

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caught at the center of this senseless terror: The violence will
end. Hope will return. Justice will be served.

Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

#

Val

injury 1 hr.

135 min



Shots⁶/stab⁺

100 minor

w/in city of
LA

235 injuries

since beginning of riot

just under 4,000 not

rented
from to keep.

5,000 !

more
people
than
there
is
space
for

Press → RUMORING
See.

2 V
D

Powell and Wind, who hit King 56 times with their batons during an 81-second period, were "out of control." Briseno said he had put his foot on King to keep him down and prevent Powell and Wind from possibly beating him to death.

The Holliday videotape unleashed widespread criticism of the LAPD and touched off a political upheaval that still continues in the city. At the center of the storm was Police Chief Daryl F. Gates, who has headed the department since 1978 and frequently been criticized for insensitivity to alleged police racism.

Gates apologized for the beating but called it an "aberration." He fired Wind, a probationary officer, and suspended the others without pay.

Mayor Bradley, a former police officer and longtime Gates critic, tried to force the chief to retire. Gates resisted, and his supporters said Bradley should step down instead. Although the Police Commission suspended Gates for 60 days on April 4, 1991, the City Council reinstated him a day later.

Later, however, Gates agreed to retire in June. After a long selection process directed by Police Commission President Stanley Sheinbaum, one of California's leading liberals, Philadelphia Police Commissioner Willie L. Williams was chosen April 16 to replace Gates. Williams will be the first black to head the LAPD and the first outsider in more than 40 years.

Staff writers Lynne Duke and Sharon LaFraniere in Washington, Al Kamen and Ruben Castaneda in Los Angeles and special correspondent Leef Smith contributed to this report.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE CASE



March 3, 1991: Lake View Terrace resident George Holliday uses a video camera to record police beating King after a high-speed chase.

March 7: King freed after prosecutors decline to file charges. Police Chief Daryl F. Gates recommends prosecution for three officers and pledges to discipline others.

March 15: Grand jury indicts Sgt. Stacey C. Koon and Officers Laurence M. Powell, Timothy E. Wind and Theodore J. Briseno. Charges include assault under color of authority, assault with great bodily injury, excessive force and filing false police reports.

March 20: Mayor Tom Bradley urges Gates to resign.

March 26: Officers plead not guilty.

March 27: Gates asks retired state Supreme Court Justice John Arguelles to head a panel to examine excessive-force incidents and recommend reforms.

March 30: Bradley appoints former U.S. deputy secretary of state Warren Christopher to head a panel to investigate police practices.

April 4: Police Commission suspends Gates for 60 days. Arguelles and Christopher panels merge into single commission.

April 5: City Council orders Gate's reinstatement.

May 7: Gates fires Wind and suspends Koon, Powell and Briseno without pay.

July 9: Christopher Commission reports evidence of brutality and racism in the police force. It blames deficient management, suggests that Gates retire and recommends imposing a term limit on future chiefs.

July 22: Gates says he will retire in April 1992 if his replacement is chosen by then. He later postpones that to June, saying he wants to fight term limits and other reforms on the June 2 city ballot.

Nov. 22: Superior Court Judge Stanley Weisberg is appointed to the case.

Nov. 26: Weisberg orders the trial held in neighboring Ventura County.

Feb. 5, 1992: Jury selection begins.

March 5: Opening arguments begin, and Briseno's attorney says other officers were "out of control."

March 17: The prosecution rests without calling King to stand.

March 19: Koon defends baton use as "a managed and controlled use of force."

April 1: Powell compares the King encounter to a "matador-and-bull type situation."

April 3: Briseno denounces his codefendants, says he tried to stop the beating.

April 9: LAPD Cmdr. Michael Bostic, an expert on use of force, says most of the baton blows were unreasonable and unnecessary.

April 20: Closing arguments begin.

April 24: Jury deliberations begin.

April 29: Jury returns not-guilty verdicts on 10 of 11 counts; mistrial declared on the other count.

SOURCE: Associated Press

The Rodney King Case

MARCH 1991

3 Rodney G. King, a black motorist, is beaten and kicked by white Los Angeles police officers, while a resident of a nearby apartment building videotapes the incident.

14 A Los Angeles County grand jury indicts Sgt. Stacey C. Koon and Officers Laurence M. Powell, Theodore J. Briseno and Timothy E. Wind. They plead not guilty 12 days later. United States Attorney General Dick Thornburgh orders a review of brutality complaints against the Los Angeles Police Department over the past six years. The study is later expanded to cover the nation. Thirteen months later, the findings have yet to be released.

APRIL

1 In response to the beating, Mayor Tom Bradley appoints a commission, headed by former Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, to investigate the police department.

2 Mayor Bradley calls on Chief Gates to step down.

4 The Police Commission, whose members are appointed by the Mayor, suspends Chief Gates with pay for 60 days. Five days later, a judge reinstates Chief Gates, while the case is heard in court.

MAY

7 Chief Gates dismisses Officer Wind, a rookie who did not have tenure. He suspends Sergeant Koon and Officers Powell and Briseno without pay.

8 Mr. King and his wife, Crystal, file a Federal civil rights lawsuit against the city.

10 The grand jury announces that it will not indict any of the 19 police officers who were bystanders at the beating. The police department later punishes 10 of them.

13 Judge Ronald S. Gagliardi of Los Angeles County Superior Court voids the suspension of Chief Gates. The four police commissioners who voted to place him on leave resign.

28 Mr. King, found in a parked car with a transvestite prostitute, tries to flee a plainclothes officer and is accused of trying to run him over. Two months later, prosecutors decide not to file charges.

JULY

9 The Christopher Commission releases its report, including a recommendation that Chief Gates retire and a range of proposals for changes in the police department. The panel concludes that the department suffers from a "siege mentality" and that a relatively small number of officers account for an inordinate number of uses of force but go unpunished.

22 Chief Gates announces he will retire in April 1992. He later hints that he might stay on through June or July, 1992.

23 The State Second District Court of Appeal grants a change of venue.

AUGUST

21 The Second District Court of Appeal removes Judge Bernard Kamins from the beating case, citing improper private communication between the judge and prosecutors.

SEPTEMBER

3 The Los Angeles City Council approves a ballot measure containing many of the Christopher Commission recommendations, including greater civilian control of the police department. The initiative is to go before voters on June 2.

18 In his official response to the commission's report, Chief Gates asserts that most of the proposed changes are already department policies, while others are unnecessary.

NOVEMBER

26 Judge Stanley M. Weisberg, who replaced Judge Kamins, chooses neighboring Ventura County as the new venue for the beating case.

MARCH

4 Opening arguments are given before the jury. Ten jurors are white, one is Hispanic and one is Asian. John O. Balmes, lawyer for Officer Briseno, reveals that Officer Wind indicates the only three defendants.

APRIL

16 Mayor Bradley announces the choice of Willie L. Williams, a black man who is once a police in Philadelphia, as successor Chief Gates.

23 The case goes to the jury.
30 The jury is hung on one count against Mr. Powell and announces not guilty verdicts on all other charges.

The Charges and the Verdicts

	Indicates which officers were charged				Maximum sentence
	Sgt. Stacey C. Koon	Laurence M. Powell	Timothy E. Wind	Theodore J. Briseno	
Assault with a deadly weapon	Not guilty	Not guilty	Not guilty	Not guilty	4 years, \$10,000 fine
Excessive use of force as a police officer	Not guilty	Mis-trial	Not guilty	Not guilty	1 year, \$10,000 fine
Filing a false police report	Not guilty	Not guilty			3 years
Accessory after the fact to a felony	Not guilty				3 years, \$5,000 fine

May 1, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID DEMAREST
DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: RESEARCHERS

SUBJECT: OVAL/L.A.

LINCOLN QUOTES:

Government should not act for revenge.

If some men will kill, or beat, or constrain others, or despoil them of property by force, fraud, or non-compliance with contracts, it is a common object with peaceful and just men to prevent it.

Let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty.

There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law.

Let us discard all this quibbling about this man and the other man, this race and that race and the other race, being inferior and therefore they must be placed in an inferior position. Let us discard all these things, and unite as one people throughout this land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal.

RIOTS IN FIVE (5) OTHER CITIES:

San Francisco, Atlanta, Las Vegas, Seattle, Tampa Bay.
Protests also in Dallas, and Madison, Wisconsin.

A FEW EXCERPTS FROM LA ARTICLES

A youth minister from the House of Prayer Church in Compton was trying to persuade people to cease looting and go home. No one paid attention.

22-year-old member from the same church said, "This is not unity. This is destroying. This is like getting angry and setting your own house on fire. I'm praying for these people."

" . . . citizen soldiers facing citizens . . . "

The irony of it all: Guardsman armed with loaded M-16 rifles were stationed at the corner of MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD and Vermont Avenue, where rioters had battled over a strip mall most of the day. [Two men named King: Years ago, Martin Luther King raised the consciousness of this nation on the issue of race; today, the issue of Rodney King illustrates that we have farther to go. 'We have not overcome.']] "The model of behavior that this group chose to follow not to a Martin Luther King of non-violence but a Malcolm X of 'freedom by any means necessary'."

There were little kids looting for their parents. Parents saying, "Go on in, run in there and get more."

FYI: A factoid with a lot of impact -- 56 blows in 81 seconds (re Rodney King video). 81 seconds of video has literally changed the nation.

Chinese proverb: If we do not change the direction we are going, we will wind up where we are headed.

Factoid: Lake View Terrace neighborhood is where beating occurred.

Factoid: From a CNN broadcast -- "The cost of the LA riots thus far run in the \$200 million range."

Factoid: Los Angeles -- known as "city of the angels."

Factoid: Jury comprised of 6 men, 6 women -- a housekeeper, cable splicer, bank clerk, retired real estate broker, phone company technician, computer analyst, retired naval aviator, park ranger, college groundskeeper, program manager, retired mental health worker, and a nurse.

T-shirt of one of the residents of the riot-torn area: "Justice -- not Just Us."

Firefighters in LA were quoted as saying: "We have a lot of people out there who care about us . . . kids are waving to us from their doors." "There's a lot of good people out there. . . bringing us drinks of water or the last can of soda that they had saved." "If they can, lend a hand." "People are helping by doing what the law asks."

King's aunt said of her nephew: " . . . You can't use his name as the excuse for all that's happening in the city now. And you can't use his name as the salvation."

SOME POINTS FROM BARR'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY

"The verdicts yesterday on state charges are not the end of this process."

The Department and the FBI have been closely monitoring the Los Angeles case since the incident occurred.

We have now moved forward with our own federal investigation of this incident to determine whether there was a violation of the civil rights law.

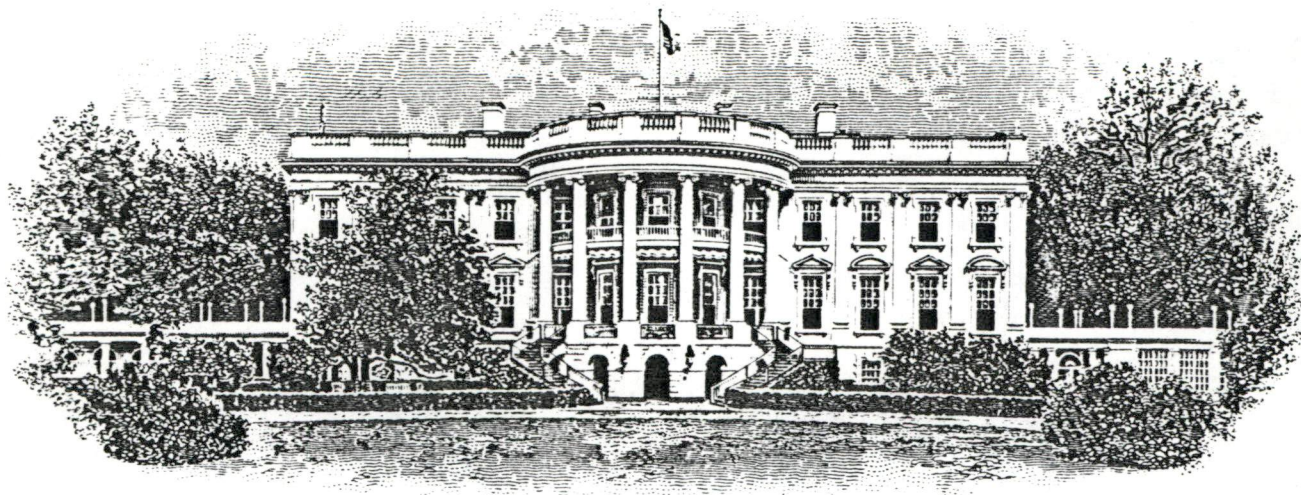
I join the President, local officials and community leaders in calling on all Americans to obey the law.

We take with gravest concern any allegation of police brutality.

. . .At the same time, we cannot tolerate public violence and lawlessness, and it is imperative that this violence come to an end immediately.

This is now an active criminal investigation.

In these particular cases, the standard is whether or not we believe that the federal interest was adequately vindicated in the state proceedings...If it's not, then we feel free to proceed on a federal track."



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER 4

DATE May 1

TO David & Dan

FAX NUMBER 2983

COMMENTS Just a little

info — anecdotal,

quotes from riot

victims, factors, etc.

FROM Research

* DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS *

OFFICE NUMBER 7750



TELE-FAX COVER SHEET

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS
10TH AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20530

DATE: May 1, 1992

SEND TO:

Michelle Nix or Jennifer Grossman

COMMENTS:

URGENT!

FAX NUMBER:

4520-6218

CONTACT PERSON:

MARY KATE GANT

PHONE:

514-9205NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS ONE): 9

OUR TELE-FAX NUMBER IS (202)-514-2424



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1992

CR
202-514-2007
TDD 202-514-1888

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- John R. Dunne, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, issued the following statement last night regarding the verdict in Los Angeles:

"Pursuant to our long-standing policy of deferring to local prosecution, the Department of Justice has been monitoring the prosecution of four Los Angeles Police Department Officers in Simi Valley. The Department's Civil Rights Division, in conjunction with the United States Attorney's office for the Central District of California, will now undertake a review of this incident to determine what, if any, action may be taken under federal civil rights laws."

#

92-147



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1992

AG
202-514-2007
202-514-1888

STATEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM P. BARR

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- I have a brief statement on the situation in Los Angeles.

The verdicts yesterday on state charges are not the end of this process. The Department of Justice is responsible for enforcing federal civil rights laws, and we will do so vigorously.

The Department and the FBI have been closely monitoring the Los Angeles case since the incident occurred. As is our established practice in such cases, we deferred action while the state completed its proceedings.

We have now moved forward with our own federal investigation of this incident to determine whether there was a violation of the civil rights laws. We began that process last night, immediately after the verdicts were returned.

That investigation will be carried out jointly by the Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney's office in Los Angeles and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have instructed them to complete this review as quickly as possible.

I have asked Associate Attorney General Wayne Budd to personally oversee the investigation. I have asked the Associate Attorney General to go to Los Angeles to meet with all the Department of Justice components on the scene to ensure the investigation is being pursued as expeditiously as possible; and also to coordinate with Governor Wilson and Mayor Bradley with respect to any further assistance that may be required.

I join the President, local officials and community leaders in calling on all Americans to obey the law.

We take with gravest concern any allegation of police brutality and, as I said, we will pursue this particular allegation aggressively. At the same time, we cannot tolerate public violence and lawlessness. It is imperative that this violence come to an end immediately.

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PRESS CONFERENCE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM BARR; FBI DIRECTOR WILLIAM SESSIONS; AND JOHN DUNNE, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CIVIL RIGHTS DIV.
J-4-1 page# 1 THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1992
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ATTY GEN. BARR: Good afternoon. I have a brief statement to make about the situation in Los Angeles, and joining me here at the podium is the Director of the FBI Judge Sessions and the head of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice John Dunne.

It's important for people to understand that the verdicts yesterday on state charges are not the end of the process. The Department of Justice is responsible for enforcing the civil rights laws of the United States and we will do so vigorously. The Department and the FBI have been closely monitoring the Los Angeles case since the incident occurred. As is our established practice in such cases, we deferred action while the state completed its proceedings. We have now moved forward with our own federal complete investigation of this incident to determine whether there has been a violation of federal civil rights statutes.

We began that process last night immediately after the verdicts were returned. That investigation will be carried out jointly by the Los Angeles United States Attorney's Office, the Civil Rights Division, and the FBI. And I've instructed them to complete this review as quickly as possible.

I have asked Associate Attorney General Wayne Budd to personally oversee the investigation. And I have asked the Associate Attorney General to go to Los Angeles today to meet with all the Department of Justice components that are involved on the scene and to ensure that the investigation is being pursued as expeditiously as possible, and also to coordinate Governor Wilson and Mayor Bradley and other local leaders with respect to any further assistance that may be needed.

I join the President, local officials, and community leaders in calling on all Americans to obey the law. We take with gravest concern any allegation of police brutality. And as I said, we will pursue this particular allegation vigorously. At the same time, we cannot tolerate public violence and lawlessness, and it is imperative that this violence come to an end immediately.

I will take your questions.

Q General, with respect to the count on which the jury deadlocked, local officials have indicated they would take at least till May 15th to decide whether to vote for a new trial. Does that mean you're -- you certainly are not going to go forward with anything in the way of a charge prior to May 15th?

ATTY GEN. BARR: No, it does not necessarily mean that. We are now moving forward with our investigation.

Q How long --

not

Q Do you have any assurances from the LA folks as to how they're going to -- what they're going to do on that count?

ATTY GEN. BARR: We don't need any assurances. We are pursuing now a federal criminal investigation.

Q How long --

ATTY GEN. BARR: Yes.

Q -- how long --

ATTY GEN. BARR: Yes.

Q On what grounds would you pursue this case? I understand perhaps a change of venue might be one thing that should be looked at? What constitutes --

ATTY GEN. BARR: No --

Q -- a civil rights violation?

ATTY GEN. BARR: The statutes of particular relevance here are 18 USC 241 and 18 USC 242. 18 USC 241 prohibits a conspiracy to deprive someone of their constitutional rights. Section 242 prohibits deprivation of constitutional rights under color of law, including under color of state law. Those are the two relevant statutes.

Q Could you explain that and how you could prosecute on a civil rights level when they've been here as criminals?

ATTY GEN. BARR: There are two -- there are -- nothing in the state process is binding on us federally. There are two different sovereigns, and so there is no issue of double jeopardy here. What we are looking at is whether there was intentional infliction of excessive force -- which may constitute a violation of the civil rights laws. And so we are not bound by any of the state proceedings in that inquiry.

Yes, sir?

Q Can you give us an estimate as to long it might take to complete your inquiry, and are there additional FBI agents and assistant US attorneys being assigned to this case? You said that the associate attorney general is being sent out there. Is anybody else being sent out there?

ATTY GEN. BARR: I believe that John Dunne last night directed several prosecutors in his division to go out to Los Angeles immediately. I'm not going to predict a specific time frame. This is now an active criminal investigation. We're obviously aware that there is a strong interest that it be pressed forward and concluded as expeditiously as we can, and all resources necessary to achieve that will be devoted to the investigation.

Yes?

Q Didn't the FBI already conduct a preliminary investigation and come up with some conclusions that indicated there might be some difficulties in bringing federal charges?

ATTY. GEN. BARR: I'll let Judge Sessions answer after I do, but there -- you were correct that the FBI did begin a criminal investigation, a review of the case, but we can't discuss what conclusions might have been reached because that is still part of this ongoing criminal investigation.

Judge, do you want to add to that?

JUDGE SESSIONS: That would be correct, Hon. Those investigative results, of course, were delivered to the United States Attorney and to the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice by Deputy Attorney General John Dunne, and those matters, of course, are matters for them to consider.

Q Can you tell us when you started that investigation and when you stopped it in deference to the state trial?

ATTY. GEN. BARR: The investigation, of course, was begun immediately. If you'll recall, the video presentation of the tape was shown, I believe, on a Monday evening, and we began first thing Tuesday morning early in the morning hours. That was, of course, pursued diligently to the point where we had conducted and completed our preliminary investigation. At that point it was stopped. And, subject to the oversight of the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, we will begin again.

Yes?

Q General, is there a Justice Department policy, maybe called the -- (inaudible word) -- policy, that states that you will not prosecute if the facts have already been adjudicated in favor of the defendant in a state court unless you come up with new evidence or something?

ATTY. GEN. BARR: There is no such policy.

Q General, may I just ask you: There is certainly a strong perception amongst many people in the community that white officers accused of brutality towards black victims get off, that there have been a number of cases where this has occurred -- Miami, New Jersey, and now LA. Can you respond to that perception? Can you help us with that? Do you have any figures?

ATTY. GEN. BARR: Since 1983, since October '88, we in the Department of Justice have brought charges against 123 law enforcement officers for police brutality. That includes officers in, I believe, 23 jurisdictions. Our conviction rate is running approximately 75 percent. These are cases usually that did not result in convictions at the state level or where we were dissatisfied with the resolution that was reached at the state level.

Q How many of those followed acquittals?

Q Did they involve civil rights violations? General, did they involve civil rights violations, these cases you're referring to?

ATTY GEN. BARR: Typically, yes.

Q Sir, did they follow acquittals?

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Q Were they across racial lines, in some cases --
(inaudible) --

ATTY GEN. BARR: I can't give you a specific figure on that.
Do you know that?

MR. DUNNE: Some were, some weren't. We don't keep statistics
on that because racial animus is not an element of a 241 or 242
violation.

ATTY GEN. BARR: I think that's an important point that that
question just raised, which is, there is no requirement of showing
racial animus under 241 or 242.

Yes, sir?

Q General, you had a moment ago said that you were looking
at the possibility of intentional infliction of excessive force. Is
that the crime or the conduct that is encompassed under 241 and 242,
that may have occurred here? Or is there any other kind of conduct
that might be prosecutable under either one of those jurisdictional
statutes?

ATTY GEN. BARR: The -- under 242 the requirement is that the
conduct of the defendant must have deprived the victim of some
rights secured by the Constitution. And this includes the right not
to have excessive or unreasonable force inflicted upon one by an
officer of the state without due process. That's what I was
referring to.

Yes?

Q What do you think of the verdict? Did the jury do the
right thing here?

ATTY GEN. BARR: I'm standing here now in the capacity of the
federal prosecutor that has an ongoing investigation of this case,
so it would be inappropriate for me at this stage to comment upon
that proceeding.

Q General, what is there left to investigate? Are there
some facts you believe are not known by now?

ATTY GEN. BARR: Obviously one of the sources of information
will be the entire proceedings of the case that's just gone forward.
In addition, there may be some additional evidence.

Q But basically you're going to review the transcript of
the trial?

ATTY GEN. BARR: That's obviously part of the investigation.

Q General, what is the President's attitude toward this?
Did he give you instructions on how to proceed?

ATTY GEN. BARR: The President's obviously very concerned about
this. And he asked for me to brief him on our activities and the
investigation. While I was with him, he talked to Governor Wilson
and Mayor Bradley and offered whatever assistance we could give.

Q Does he have any views on how you should proceed with

ATTY GEN. BARR: He wants us to proceed full apace.

Q Has Wayne Budd already left for LA?

ATTY GEN. BARR: Wayne Budd is on his way here and then he will leave for LA.

Q Can you expand more on what his role will be in LA? Mr. Budd's role in --

ATTY GEN. BARR: I just -- I think I just described his role. I want him to meet with all the various components that are there. We have not only the three components involved in the investigation; we also have our community relations service that's been out there and is now very active in the community, trying to stop the violence. And I want him to go out there and meet with them, give me a status report, make sure that all the resources that we need to have there are there, and also to consult with the local leaders to determine if there's any further assistance that we can give.

Q Will the fact that a jury already acquitted weigh in your consideration at all whether to bring a federal indictment?

ATTY GEN. BARR: As I say, double jeopardy is not a concern here.

Q I'm not talking about the legal -- I'm talking about trial strategy and so forth.

ATTY GEN. BARR: I'm not going to speculate about various factors that may come into play in a particular case in judging whether it's appropriate to seek an indictment on. I'm just not going to speculate on that.

Q General, could we go a little bit deeper into the statutes that you've mentioned here? If I'm not mistaken, under the equivalent statutes that apply at the state and local level, that's 1985 and 1983, the court has established that even minimal infliction of injury is prosecutable. Is there case law to the same effect under the federal statute even though Mr. King may not have been substantially injured? Any infliction of even minimal injury, perhaps including psychic injury, would be within the reach of those statutes?

ATTY GEN. BARR: I'm not sure what you're driving at.

Q Well, what I'm saying is, as you know, the court -- the Supreme Court this term ruled that it can be a violation at the state level of the right not to have excessive force used if there's only minimal physical injury and maybe also if there's minimal emotional injury. Is there case law that shows that the same kind of thing is prosecutable under the two federal statutes you have articulated?

ATTY GEN. BARR: Do you know that, John?

MR. DUNNE: Yes.

Yes, there is. (Laughter.) Yes, in fact, there is a case where you don't even have to have any infliction of physical violence at all.

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Q So, what kind of -- what kind of legal injury has to be suffered under that precedent in order for these statutes to apply?

ATTY GEN. BARR: Well, it's a very interesting line of inquiry, but the bottom line is that this particular person was physically injured, and we believe that the injuries were to a sufficient degree to warrant an investigation under these statutes.

Q What's the current maximum penalty to be received if he's prosecuted and convicted?

ATTY GEN. BARR: Ten years and \$10,000, I believe.

Q General, the Department has internal guidelines for determining whether to go forward in a dual prosecution. Could you describe what standard or what threshold must be met to proceed with the dual prosecution under those guidelines?

ATTY GEN. BARR: In these particular cases, the standard is whether or not we believe that the federal interest was adequately vindicated in the state proceedings. I believe that's in the United States Attorneys manual. So it's a judgment as to whether we believe the federal interest, given the facts as we understand them, were vindicated by the state proceeding. If it's not, then we feel free to proceed on a federal track.

Thanks.

Q Thank you very much.

END

May 1, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVE
DAN

FROM: JAG

SUBJECT: TV INTERVIEWS WITH GOOD SAMARITANS

Culled from the tube: two interviews with two samaritans (black) who aided two victims of mob violence.

CBS This Morning, Paula Zahn

Bennie Newton, an African-American pastor, arrived home Wednesday night and watched with horror the violence on the evening news. He and other preachers had been trying to come up with answers. Bennie decided to become one. "I felt I had to go down to do what I could," he recalled, "and I'm glad I did."

He walked downtown into the heart of the violence, "a street storm," he called it. He saw a man being beaten by a crowd of about 20. He moved to defend the man, saying, "Please stop, let's bring some sense into this." They pushed him aside, and were it not for his collar, would have probably beaten him too.

The beating continued, culminating when someone picked up a speaker and threw it down on the victim's head. At this point, the Reverend covered the man's body with his own -- shielding it from the mob. When he got a chance, he dragged the man to a gutted van and hid him there. Then he went to get his own car, and drove him to the hospital. Later, when he saw the reaction of the victim's family, he said "my heart was crying." The man, Mr. Lopez, is in stable condition.

Today Show, Bryant Gumbel

Greg Alan-Williams, an African-American actor and writer, was driving by a violent intersection and saw a mob of angry men swarming over a stalled car. The crowd was smashing and crawling through the windows of the vehicle, beating its driver in the face with beer bottles, and dragging him out of the car.

Our hero (sigh) got a hold of the man and started pulling him across the street. The bleeding man could hardly stand, but Williams told him: "You have to walk or you're going to die." They struggled through the jeering crowd, trying to find safety. Williams pulled him along the street, seeking shelter -- but no one would take them in, no one would help (shades of the Seven Stations). Finally, another good samaritan offered his van, and they took the man to the hospital.

Mr. Williams said that he and his family stand ready to help heal the victim and his family.1

May 1, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVE
DAN

FROM: JAG

SUBJECT: GOOD SAMARITAN ACCOUNTS IN PRINT

- 1) "It was late when the elderly black couple pulled up to the 77th Street police station in a white Cadillac. Slumped in the back seat was a Latino man with a gunshot wound in the head...Any other day, these Good Samaritans would have been hailed as heroes. Not tonight. Los Angeles was at war with itself...No one felt safe and it was impossible to know friend from foe."

"'Stop there...or I'll kill you!' shouted an officer posted outside the station as he pulled a revolver on the couple. The Cadillac screeched to a halt. Moments passed. The man and the woman sat motionless, not knowing what to do. Only when the jittery officer realized who was inside did the tension subside."

--L.A. Times, 5-1-92

- 2) "Not more than 100 feet away from the safety of his front porch on Florence Avenue, James Henry watched a horrific scene unfold. Five young black men swarmed on a Hispanic man whose van had broken down...[they] punched and kicked the man mercilessly, then gleefully bounced away, flashing gang hand signals...The attackers were only about 40 feet away from the victim, who was lying in the street, when several cars careened by, one running over the man's legs."

"That was too much for Henry...'I was was afraid I was going to get hit. I didn't feel secure. At least I was moving. He was helpless...'...With the help of another man, Henry pulled the victim to the relative safety of the sidewalk, got him a blanket, got the phone number of his family, and stayed with him until police arrived about 20 minutes later."

--Washington Post, 5-1-92.

- 3) **CNN and print: reports of citizens helping firefighters with hoses, people helping to put out fires with their garden hoses.

- 4) "His name is Reginald Oliver Denny...He is alive because four strangers -- four black strangers from the very crowd that had beaten him nearly to death -- emerged to drive his unweildy 18-wheeler out of pandemonium to safety."

"The rescuers were two women and two men: a young nutrition consultant, a laid-off data control worker, an unemployed aerospace worker, and a still-unidentified young man in black whose fellow rescuers first feared was a gangbanger coming to finish Denny off."

T-shirt
saying
"Justice
not
just us"

Violent
unrests

Seattle
SF
Vegas
LA
Atlanta
Tampa

Five

57 blows
in 81 seconds

"We have a lot
of people out there
who care
about us..."

"Kids waving to
us from their
doors."

African
Americans
are asking
"what now?"

You've
asked us
to wait on
this system
and it's
fucked us
miserably.
NAACP
head

There's
a lot of good
people out
there."

People tryin' to
do their best
If they can,
lend a hand.