

MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS  
BEFORE  
GOVERNOR KERNER'S COMMITTEE  
IN  
WASHINGTON  
ON  
AUGUST 15, 1967

Recommendations:

In everything that has been said today, we have emphasized the role of the federal government in helping to create the "liveable" city. Local government has a role and a responsibility and there is increasing evidence of an awakening in the state halls and by businessmen.

We must take firm measures to assure the maintenance of law and order;

We must meet the emergency needs caused by the extensive damage running into hundreds of millions of dollars and to relieve the suffering of the innocent victims of the riots;

We must eliminate the causes of civil disorder.

1. To restore law and order we must modernize our techniques for dealing with mob action, adopt the latest scientific devices, revamp our plans for dealing with civil disorder by planning for a more effective and fluid governmental response. I have requested planning assistance from the Secretary of the Army (letter attached) and support federal legislation which will grant aid directly to the cities in training, equipping and paying police officers. There is the need for a federal riot police force to be located in our major cities and to be a part of the local police. I have asked Governor Romney to consider the formation of National Guard Riot Battalions located in the metropolitan areas to provide skilled and speedy response to civil disorders.
2. We must frankly face up to the need to consider and accept a new principle on which to base Federal programs and appropriations -- the principle of reparation for long-standing injustice dating back to the generations preceding ours. I mean the injustice of pervasive discrimination, and of the denial of equal educational, vocational and professional opportunity for advancement and progress. This has gone on for years and is still with us. The price they have paid for these generations of injustice is incalculable. Now the nation must, I believe, begin to make reparation -- for the deeds of past generations, and of our own. The principle of reparation is recognized in international law. In recent years the West German Republic made very substantial deliveries of goods and equipment to many countries in Europe and most recently to Israel -- in the name of the living and in the name of the dead. We must consider recognizing reparations now as a domestic principle, requiring national appropriations and sacrifices.
3. We must reorder our national priorities and place the needs of our cities high on the national agenda so that the Reparations Principle can have meaning and effect. It is just as important to our national destiny that we deal with the causes of warfare on the streets of America as it is to conduct a war in south-east Asia.



4. We must reorganize the federal establishment -- the departments and agencies -- to make them more responsive to urban needs and to assure a coordinated effort which emphasizes innovation. We know we must write a new textbook for the Two Americas with which we are faced. Block grants to cities will provide flexibility and fix responsibility where it belongs, right in the community. The funds available must be of the magnitude which will have an impact on the problems. To propose to conduct a war on all the influences blighting our urban society with a bow and two arrows will merely heighten tensions and lead to further explosions.
5. We must learn much more about our problems and encourage urban research and innovation. It is pathetic that we should spend so much money on attempting to find cures for the ills besetting the body and yet have done so little to seek cures for the ills of our urban society.
6. We must engage in massive programs to encourage private enterprise to create jobs in slum areas and to train slum dwellers. This may take the form of specific tax incentives, tax credits or fast amortization of factories or other enterprises in the slums. We provide tax credits for pollution control devices but we have not provided similar credits for business investments which can help to eliminate pollution of the human spirit.
7. We must explore new ways of getting slum dwellers to where the jobs presently are in the suburban areas surrounding the central cities. Subsidized transportation from factory to dwelling in the inner cities is one solution which should be considered.
8. For those who would otherwise not be employed, there is the need to emphasize the role of the public employer as the employer of last resort. There are many things which should be done to make our cities more beautiful and more habitable. Cities do not have the funds to do all that must be done, yet they can provide meaningful jobs for those who will not be able to get a job in the private market.
9. In a variety of ways we can make it possible for our nation to use the potential female labor force by creating a network of day care service centers for children which will use the time to advantage by giving a meaningful experience rather than just caring for them.
10. We must take steps to provide insurance and re-insurance for those who are willing to invest in or live in "high risk" areas -- America's ghettos. Of the \$144 million estimated direct loss during the Detroit riots, only \$84 million was insured. Getting insurance to rebuild or to create a new environment in the slums will be increasingly more difficult.
11. We must assure to each child in America that he will get the same quality education -- and it must be of a high quality -- no matter where he lives, in the slums or in suburbia. The urban school situation is a national disgrace for it emphasizes the inequality which affluence has made possible. Public education must be equal, quality education.

12. There should be established an Urban Development Fund and an Urban Development Corporation to create the financial underpinning and the management capabilities needed to create the "livable" city. The fund could be a revolving one which encourages investments in low-cost housing, technological innovation, slum area based industries and creative solutions. It should be a risk-taking activity and should lean heavily on the genius of American enterprise to support their investments through the use of the Urban Development Corporation.
13. Encouragement of new firms and Negro business enterprises in slum areas will provide employment, reduce tensions, stimulate personal ambition among Negro youths and provide a more stable community base.
14. The need for decent housing is obvious, yet for the slum dweller it seems beyond his reach. A low-cost housing program which emphasizes home ownership is needed and it must be designed to make it possible for people on welfare to make the payments. The technology exists. The barriers created by the building trades will have to be overcome. The necessary subsidy will have to be provided.
15. The health problems of slum dwellers are not being met by existing medical facilities. A vast expansion of neighborhood comprehensive treatment and emergency care centers will eliminate the existing imbalance.
16. The deep resentment of those who take advantage of the slum dweller's lack of sophistication in handling money, in selling shoddy goods, in overcharging for what he gets is a source of resentment. A consumer services and consumer protection program which is tailored to eliminate this situation is required.