

The Evening Star

With Sunday Morning Edition

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CROSBY N. BOYD, *Chairman of the Board*

JOHN H. KAUFFMANN, *President*

NEWOLD NOYES, *Editor*

Letters to the Editor

Three Years After

SIR: Three years have just passed since the 1968 riots in which so many retail stores were destroyed.

The government has shown no concern about what happened to the lives of the ex-ghetto merchants.

On orders of the authorities the looters and burners were not stopped from helping themselves in the stores so that "no blood would be shed." However, there was blood shed—the ex-merchant's blood.

The average burned-out merchant was a man ranging in age from 45 to 55, with no particular training, one who had to earn his living as a merchant. When his business went up in flames, so did his livelihood.

Contrary to what most people think, insurance paid only for the appraised value of store fixtures and merchandise inventory based on income tax reports. In many cases, insurance authorities argued about these values since it is a debatable item. Most important of all is the fact that no insurance company repaid a merchant for the loss of his livelihood.

Today, most of the ex-store proprietors have had to accept menial positions as supermarket clerks, liquor and department store salesmen.

They cannot relocate a business in the District because of the high crime rate.

Big business and the inflationary cost of beginning a business in the suburban areas have prevented the ex-merchants from opening a store in Maryland or Virginia.

There has been much aid to many minority groups by the government. But I have never seen any attempt on the part of District or federal officials to aid the ex-merchants who acted as scapegoats in the riot. The ex-store owners sustained great losses and received only sympathy in return.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1971

Larry Rosen.

The Washington Times

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1992

Good will

The burned-out Los Angeles merchants, like the burned-out merchants before them, will not recover the full loss of their businesses through insurance, because insurance does not compensate for loss of "good will."

Good will, the degree of profitability of successful livelihood generated by the business, is the merchant's most valuable asset. (When a business is sold, it's the good will value that produces the largest purchase price).

Insurance companies normally pay for loss of merchandise and equipment, and, on some occasions, the gross profit related to the length of time required to rebuild the business, but no cash for good will.

Thus, the merchant, who had nothing to do with the King assassination or the King beating, emerges as one of the riots' prime victims.

LARRY ROSEN
Silver Spring

■ *Mr. Rosen dealt with insurance companies after his business was burned down in the 1968 riots in Washington.*

— The Editor



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D C 20004

May 10, 1968

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Councilman

The Honorable Walter E. Washington
Mayor of the District of Columbia
Room 520, District Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

Dear Mayor Washington:

The District of Columbia City Council herewith presents the transcript of its public hearings on rebuilding and recovery of Washington, D. C. from the civil disturbance of April 1968, together with its report and recommendations that flow from these hearings.

As Chairman, I am particularly pleased with the speed and the thoroughness with which this report has been produced through the study and efforts of each Councilman and the small but excellent staff of the Council.

We hope you find the report constructive. We stand ready to implement our portions of the recommendations and assist you beyond our legislative role in any way you request.

We are simultaneously sending copies of this report to the National Capital Planning Commission, the Redevelopment Land Agency, and the National Capital Housing Authority, and will have a limited number of additional copies for the citizens so that they may join with us - the Mayor and the Council - to create a more perfect city out of the ashes of the past month.

Sincerely,

John W. Hechinger
JOHN W. HECHINGER
Chairman, City Council

Reproduction
General Conclusions
Planning
Enterprise and Industry
Housing
Financing

RECOMMENDATION BY DC. CITY
COUNCIL TO D.C. MAYOR MAY 1968

-36-

NOTHING EVER HAPPENED!!

COMPENSATION OF BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUALS
DAMAGED IN THE RIOTS

There has been extensive property damage in the City. The entire business community, aware of the priority of human life being valued ahead of property, calls for assurance from the city against repetition of the destruction. While adhering to the priority of human life in its scale of values, the District of Columbia government is acutely aware of the need to minimize property destruction in the future. We heard the following suggestions on this matter:

- That businessmen and individuals be reimbursed for uninsured losses, including the loss of goodwill.
- That special tax relief be given to those who have lost income because of the disturbances.
- That a moratorium be declared to relieve owners of the requirement to make mortgage payments if their properties were inoperative due to the disturbances.
- That a similar moratorium be enacted for tenants paying rent if they were unable to occupy or only partially able to occupy because of the riots.

The Council makes the following recommendations:

1. That every possible city and Federal resource be explored to either re-establish in business or adequately compensate those businesses or individuals whose losses were not covered by insurance.
2. That the Small Business Administration and similar Federal agencies consider the granting of long term loans - 30 to 40 years - at very low or no interest to merchants who wish to re-enter business.

Other

Quotations

Insurance

TYPE OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND EXTENT OF DAMAGE ON 14TH STREET NW.*

Use Category	Total No. of Establishments	Est. No. Damaged	Estimate of Damage to Building			
			% of Total Damaged	0 - 10%	10 - 50%	50 - 100%
A. NONRESIDENTIAL						
1. General Merchandise, Apparel & Furniture	66	60	91%	15	12	33
2. Convenience	37	28	76%	16	3	9
3. Personal Service	86	41	48%	14	5	22
4. Restaurant, Entertainment	27	22	82%	12	4	6
5. Liquor Stores	12	11	92%	1	2	8
6. Automotive	12	5	42%	3	0	2
7. Offices	56	11	20%	6	1	4
8. Heavy Commercial/Industrial	4	2	25%	1	0	1
9. Other (Institutional & Public)	1	0	--	0	0	0
10. Vacant	7	7	100%	2	0	5
Subtotals	308	187	--	70	27	90
Percentage of Total Establishments	100.0%	60.7	--	22.7%	8.8%	29.2%
Percentage of Total Damaged	--	100.0%	--	37.4%	14.4%	48.1%
B. RESIDENTIAL						
1. Number of Housing Units	1,083	207	--	33*	68*	108
2. Percentage of Total Housing Units	100.0%	19.1%	--	3.1%	6.1%	9.9%
3. Percentage of Damaged Housing Units	--	100.0%	--	15.9%	31.9%	52.2%

*These figures indicate the number of housing units in buildings that sustained some damage. It is not known if the housing units themselves were damaged.

Source: NCPC revisions of RLA initial data, based on follow-up field checks, April 11-12, 1968. Uses obtained from Palk's City Directory 1967.