

Daley Orders 'Shoot to Kill' For Arson
By Harry Golden Jr., Washington Post Staff Writer
The Washington Post, Times Herald (1959-1973); Apr. 16, 1968
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CHICAGO, April 15—Mayor Richard J. Daley ordered police today to shoot to kill arsonists in any future riot.

The mayor said young looters should not be killed but he added: "You can shoot and detain them."

Daley publicly condemned his police superintendent, James B. Conlisk, Jr., for not issuing shoot-to-kill orders during last week's rioting in which 11 persons were killed.

Restraint by police and troops has been credited with keeping down the death toll in the wave of big-city riots that followed the April 4 assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There has been an undercurrent of criticism that police were soft on rioters, but Daley—a key Democrat and the Nation's most powerful mayor—is the first official to call for sterner police measures.

Daley called a press conference and said he had just told Conlisk "very emphatically and very definitely that an order be issued under his signature to shoot to kill any arsonist or anyone with a Molotov cocktail, and to shoot anyone looting stores in our city."

Daley announced formation of a nine-man committee to examine the performance of police, firemen and the Illinois National Guard in the disturbances. The committee is headed by United States District Court Judge Richard B. Austin and is to report within 90 days.

Asked if Police Superintendent Conlisk was on his way out of office, Daley said, "I wouldn't want to discuss that at this time. In that situation, I will await the report of my committee."

But Daley added sternly, "I'll surely take action to improve the police department."

Daley instructed his special committee "to obtain a careful and comprehensive analysis of

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the many implications and ramifications of the events which occurred on April 5, 1968 and thereafter."

He instructed the committee "to probe the arsons, the widespread rumor dissemination, and to review the actions of the police and fire departments and the Illinois National Guard, as well as to examine the role and responsibility of the schools and the communications media in times of serious disorder."

The question of police actions arose when Daley was asked at his press conference why no shoot-to-kill order was issued during the rioting.

"I assumed the orders were given," Daley replied. "I would assume any superintendent would issue orders to shoot any arsonist on sight . . . an arsonist is a murderer and should be shot right on the spot. The looters—you wouldn't want to shoot the youngsters—but you can shoot them and detain them."

He said he was surprised and disappointed that, of almost 3000 persons arrested during the Chicago disturbances, "only 16 of those arrested were arrested for arson."

"If anyone doesn't think there's a conspiracy he ought to go out (in the riot areas) and take a look and see which buildings have been spared."

The Mayor said he was "very much disappointed to learn that every policeman pounding a beat was to use his own discretion" during the riots.

"He (the policeman on the streets) should have had instructions to shoot arsonists and to shoot looters," Daley said.

"In my opinion, there should have been orders to shoot arsonists to kill, and shoot looters in order that they be detained. In my opinion, there should have been

Mace (the chemical paralyzer) used."

Asked if Mace were safe to use, Daley said, "I don't know. I'm not a chemist. But it's a lot safer than having people burn to death."

On March 20, Alderman Leon M. Despres—the leader of Daley's critics on the City Council—protested a recent order that Chicago's 10,000 policemen be equipped with Mace as a deterrent to disturbances this summer.

Subsequently, Daley's office ordered the Board of Health to conduct a study to determine whether Mace was harmful.

Daley said he also was shocked at reports of terrorism in Chicago's public schools on April 5, including "the beating up of girls by fellow students, the slashing of teachers, extortion and pay-offs."

"There's no reason for this lawlessness and immorality," he said. "Something has got to give. What kind of society are we building?"

"We've got to face up to this question—not with brutality and not with any cruel ideas, but with some kind of discipline. If we don't, we won't have any government."