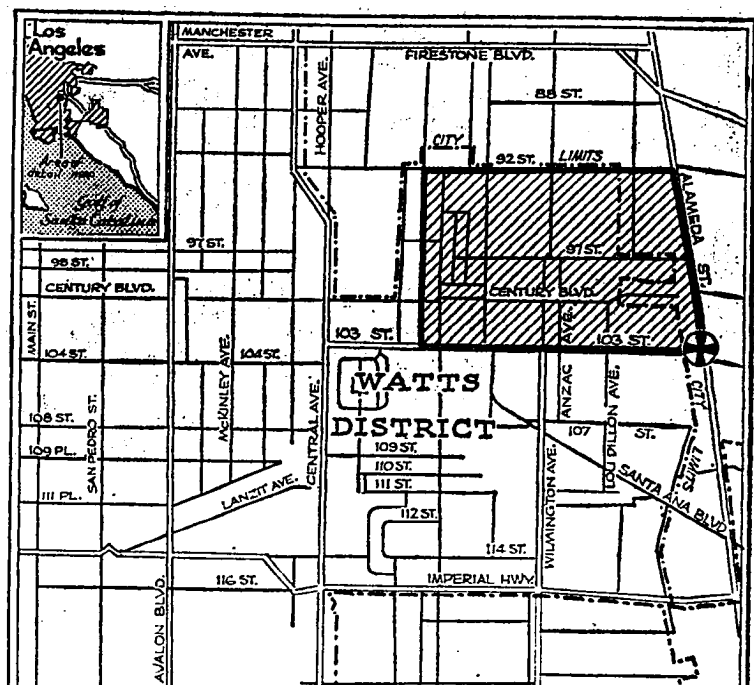




The New York Times

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NEW TROUBLE IN WATTS: Shading shows area of the riot that was touched off by an incident near a high school at corner of 103d Street and Alameda Street (cross).

McCone Inquiry on Watts Riots Warned State of New Violence

Report Urged 'Revolutionary Attitude' Toward Alleviating Living Conditions After 6-Day Strife That Killed 34

A blue-ribbon commission that was appointed to investigate last summer's riots in the Watts area of Los Angeles warned in its report last December that the August riots would be a mere "curtain-raiser" for future violence unless a "revolutionary attitude" was adopted toward racial problems.

Despite the call for action, which was in fact criticized by many Negroes as timid and shallow, Watts is much the same today as it was on the hot, muggy night of Aug. 11 when the rioting erupted.

Surveys by newsmen and sociological groups in recent months have indicated that although many programs have been announced and formulated for the Watts area, relatively little of a remedial nature has occurred there.

Literacy Program Urged

The slums are still obvious, and the clusters of unemployed men are still readily visible in an area in which two-thirds of the adults have less than a high school education and an eighth are illiterate.

Among the recommendations made by the commission, headed by John A. McCone, former Director of Central Intelligence, was an emergency literacy program in schools in disadvantaged areas and the establishment of a large-scale job-training program and placement center in the Watts area.

While efforts are being made to put such programs into action, a group of young white men have been in the Watts area since last fall urging the Negro residents to repeat last summer's "heroic revolt." The young men say they are members of the "Communist party U. S. A.—Marxist-Leninist."

In addition to the continued Negro resentment in Watts, there have been reports of growing resentment among the many Mexican-Americans living there.

Though the Mexican-Americans' median income in the area is slightly higher than that of the Negroes, their general educational level is far lower. However, the Mexican-Americans, who predominate in the eastern part of Los Angeles (Watts is in the west) have not been involved in any violence for 20 years.

The six-day rioting in Watts last August resulted in 34 deaths, 1,032 injuries, the arrest of 3,952 persons and \$40-million in property damage. More than 600 buildings were damaged, 200 totally destroyed.

It was determined by the McCone commission that the riots last summer stemmed from the arrest of Marquette Frye, a 21-year-old Negro, on a reckless driving charge. He was first stopped at 7 P.M. Aug. 11 and it was 40 minutes before the arresting officers withdrew

from the scene with their suspect.

The rioting started that night with a shower of rocks and Molotov cocktails (bottles of gasoline with wicks). There were attempts the following day to cool the neighborhood's emotions by the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission. But amid placating speeches, a youth grabbed a microphone and shouted that rioters would attack adjacent neighborhoods that night.

More than 7,000 Negroes were in the streets that night, a Thursday, and the rioting intensified. By Friday night, according to the commission, as many as 10,000 Negroes took to the streets in "marauding bands," tossing fire bombs and looting stores.

Rows of Negro houses were destroyed because Negroes in a rage to burn had driven firemen away with sniper fire. Stores, owned mostly by whites, were stripped clean, and there were scores of Negro children in streets with arms and bodies cut from breaking through glass windows.

Walls Bullet-Pocked

Burned-out autos littered the streets and bullet-pocked walls showed where armed mobs had fought National Guardsmen almost like guerrillas at war. Disorders covered a 46.5-mile area and panic was widespread in many surrounding mixed neighborhoods.

It was not until Saturday night, when a total of 13,900 National Guardsmen, 934 police officers and 719 officers from the sheriff's office were on duty that the looting, sniping and fire bombing had all but ended.

In the few criticisms of Government officials or agencies that it made, the McCone report chastised Lieut. Gov. Glenn M. Anderson for his alleged delay in honoring a request by the Los Angeles police for National Guard support. Like last night, Mr. Anderson was then acting Governor in the absence of Gov. Edmund G. Brown. Mr. Anderson moved swiftly last night to place the National Guard on standby.

The McCone commission's basic finding in the riots last year was that in addition to better education and more jobs, the Watts area Negroes needed better health, housing and transportation facilities; that the Police Department needed to hire more Negroes; and that Negroes themselves must share "a full share of the responsibility" for their own well-being.