

Solons Look at Scramble To Shift Blame in Riots

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District
 Rumbblings from last month's terrifying riots in the Watts area of Los Angeles continue to reverberate up and down the state. The latest peal of thunder rolled when the Highway Patrol Commissioner publicly and forcibly rejected a charge by the Los Angeles Chief of Police that actions of the Highway Patrolmen who arrested the drunk driver in Aug. 11 triggered the ensuing riot.

The Chairman of the Senate Fact Finding Committee on Transportation and Public Utilities quickly scheduled a meeting of his group for the middle of this month to consider the matter. "We are not going to assess or blame anyone, nor are we going to whitewash anyone's actions," the chairman stated. "We will provide the public forum necessary to allow all concerned law enforcement agencies and levels of government the opportunity to present their sides to the current unfortunate controversy."

ACTIONS OF BOTH the Los Angeles mayor and the chief of police brought about the unprecedented public defense of his men by the commissioner. The mayor wrote the Los Angeles district attorney,

requesting an investigation of the Highway Patrol arrest. The chief of police, in a television interview, said that the riot might have been avoided if his police force had handled the arrest, since its members are better trained and more experienced in touchy race relations situations.

In a formal press release the commissioner said that his resentment at the Los Angeles officials' unwarranted attack on the ability of members of the California Highway Patrol to carry out their duties exceeded his reluctance to enter into a public dispute with them. "I can no longer leave their statements unchallenged."

THE COMMISSIONER declared that during the height of the riot, the police chief publicly stated, "It could happen to anyone," meaning that an arrest by any police officer could have set off the riot. Again, according to the commissioner, the chief publicly said that if the drunk driving arrest by the Highway Patrol had not triggered the riot, something else would have at another time. From these two statements, the commissioner concluded, that it is obvious that the chief now is merely trying to place the blame on someone else's shoulders.

The commissioner said that it is particularly difficult for him to understand why, if the Highway Patrolmen are so poorly trained and qualified as the chief now alleges, the latter continually asked for and received during the riot, the assistance of 60 or more patrolmen. "If he had so little confidence in my men, why did he knowingly risk their lives?"

THE RECORD shows that both the Highway Patrol and the Los Angeles Police Departments have maintained full-fledged training academies for many years. They are widely regarded as two of the best training institutions of their kind in the world, and their standards of instruction are far higher than the minimums prescribed by the State of California. Both require specific training in "human relations," which is directed to the problems of dealing with minority groups. The Highway Patrol Academy course in the subject emphasizes current conditions throughout the state and the nation.

It is obvious that the Senate committee will probe deeply to establish the facts in this unusual controversy, and to make them publicly known for the benefit of all.

...All 'Round

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 clocks set to go off every ten seconds.

"If we don't get a laugh every ten seconds, we know we are going flat," says Bill Jack, a Scotsman, who teamed up with Colin Beatty, an Englishman, nineteen years ago. Bob Leduc, a Canadian, joined the act later.

They are three men with only a single thought—how to make an audience laugh and keep it laughing. The Follies appear at the Long Beach Arena September 24-October 3 and Los Angeles Sports Arena September 9-23. "We always try for a flash somewhere in the act," Bill Jack explains, "something which will catch the audience completely by surprise."

"The audience sees us out on the ice for a few minutes and we hope they are laughing all the time," said Bob Leduc. "They don't realize—and we don't want them to—that a simple bit of business which lasts only a few seconds might represent two or three years work."

Sometimes the audience invents a gag. That happened when a woman spectator raised an umbrella to protect herself from being sprinkled by Beatty.

After that we always asked someone in the audience to pull the umbrella trick," Beatty says, "it always gets a laugh."

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AT GREEK THEATRE Almost from the day that

the Greek Theatre Association, under the directorship of James A. Doolittle, took over the theatre-in-the-park, there has been a successful "Cultural Program" established—a special service for educators and students, extended through the California Teacher's Association. During this season at the Greek Theatre, the program which made the performing arts available to every student and his instructor, has provided for more than 100,000 at very favorable price reductions. Since its inception in excess of one million have benefited. It has become one of the most extensive plans of its kind in the world.

Also, as part of the educational program of the city-owned theatre, is the "Gift for the Children," a rewarding program that enabled more than 2,500 disadvantaged children to attend live theatre this year. Carefully selected, appropriate programs were chosen at the Huntington Hartford and Greek Theatres. The Hartford also operates under the Greek Theatre Association banner.

The Hospitality Committee of the Greek Theatre each year sponsors the fund raising for this particular program. Among the institutions who have been guests of the theatre this year are the Foundation for the Junior Blind, with 300 attending at various times; U.C.L.A. Tutorial Project for "Teen Agers' Exchange Students from South America, Big Sister League, Assistance League, Etta Lee Homes Orphanage, Synanon

House, Underprivileged Boys' Club of Inglewood, Braille Institute, Ardmore Playground, Neighborhood Adult Participation of Watts, the Busy Bees, Bell School for Retarded Children and many others.

Six school bus loads of children from the distressed Watts area, under the arrangements of Mrs. Olive Skiles, Head of the Youth Opportunity Program of the Board of Education, attended various programs at the Greek Theatre this year. They were treated each time to a picnic in the park before the performance. Junior High Schools from the Watts area that participated were Thomas A. Edison, Belvedere, Carver, Drew, Gompers, Griffith, Hollenbeck, Market Street and Wilmington.

In a recent letter to Mr. Doolittle, Walter J. Lansu, Project Coordinator for the Los Angeles School Districts,

wrote "The entire Los Angeles Community has been most helpful whenever we have explained our needs but none has responded quite so generously as you have. For these children and those who accompanied them, and on behalf of the Los Angeles City School District please accept our thanks."

Many students and teachers, as well as other organizations, have made plans for group attendance for the last two programs at the Greek Theatre, the American Ballet Theatre which will open on September 6, and the Judy Garland Show, opening on September 13.

TICKETS ON SALE Tickets went on sale Sunday by mail order only for Melodyland Theatre's Fall Musical Season, which opens Sept. 14 with Panama and Frank's hilarious takeoff of Al Capp's comic strip "Li'l

Abner." Peter Palmer and Stubby Kaye from the original Broadway cast, and Louise O'Brien are starred. Four Broadway musicals are scheduled, each to run three weeks, and the second attraction is "The King and I," starring Jack Palance and Celeste Holm, opening Oct. 5, to be followed by "Oliver," on Oct. 26, and "The Merry Widow," starring Patricia Munsel on Nov. 16.

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Observatory Continues Trip to Moon, Saturn

Manned flight into outer space is achieved for the first time by simulation in "A Trip to the Moon and Saturn," now being shown at Griffith Park Observatory's planetarium theater, according to the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department.

Dr. Clarence H. Clemenshaw, Observatory director, reported that the scientific center is open every day of the week through September 12, with shows scheduled at 3, 8 and 9:15 p.m. daily. Extra presentations are offered at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. on weekends.

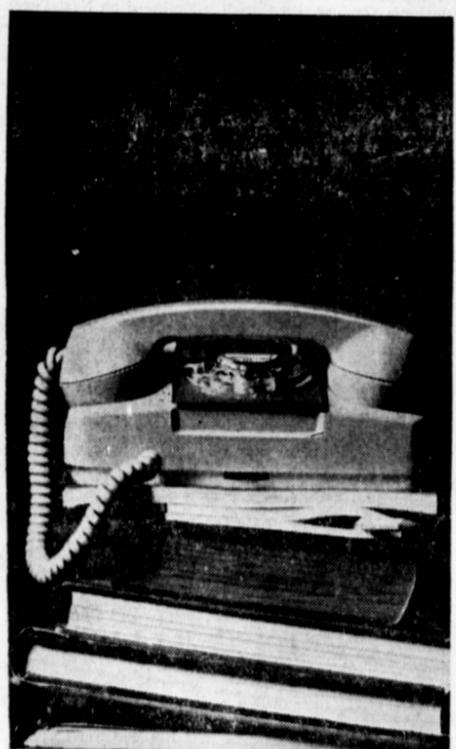
Years of experience in recreating stellar phenomena by means of the famous Zeiss projector are employed to carry the audience on a voy-

age through space to the moon. After hovering over that lunar body and viewing it through the eyes of the Ranger 9 camera, the simulated spaceship makes a landing in a crater.

THE WEIRD, barren beauty of the surface is viewed by burning sunlight and later by soft earth light.

Then the space vehicle blasts off into a black sky in a further leg of the journey that reaches Titan, the largest moon of Saturn, the ringed planet. Titan is large enough to have an atmosphere and conditions there are similar to those on Earth—including blue skies.

Admission to the theater is 75 cents for adults and 30 cents for students 5 to 18 years of age.



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