

in the evening tries desperately to portray the situation in the city as reminding him of the "urban violence of the 1960s" and that it is growing out of control. Unfortunately for him, a co-reporter who has actually been at the scenes, continuously contradicts Newman on the "live" show.

City Council President Paul O'Dwyer offers a statement to the press which put the finishing touches on the riot potential. O'Dwyer reveals that he had conducted a fact-finding visit to the Indian Point nuclear power plant that afternoon, and had discovered that not even the employees there had bought the line that lightning was the cause of the power failure. In a strongly worded statement broadcast by Channel 5 television at 10 p.m. O'Dwyer documents that employees at the plant at the time of the powerout saw "no lightning" at that time. Although O'Dwyer's statement is either buried in a corner of the next day's press or simply not covered at all the pressure on Con Edison to restore the power has reached a peak.

Thus, by 11:00 p.m., the "riot" potential has been destroyed. Con Edison by now has put the power back on in the "riot prone" areas. Throughout the night, police, along with community volunteers, work together to clean up existing debris and to watch for any attempts at provocations.

Day Two: July 15

With power restored, as the city returns to "normal," the Rockefeller-linked press has not given up its political effort to create a race riot — if need be, with further lies. The *New York Times* characterizes the 24 hour period as having "far exceeded the outbreaks that followed the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968." The *Times* also lyingly depicts a meeting of 75 community leaders with the Mayor the night before as a unified call for "deploying the National Guard."

Editorially, the *Times* labels the crisis, not so much a blackout as a riot — an analog of "the hot summers of the 60's which started in Harlem and in Bedford Stuyvesant in the summer of 1964, a year before Watts." Rupert

Murdock's *New York Post* runs a four-inch banner headline, "24 Hours of Terror," and carries a multifaceted attack on the Mayor for not calling in the National Guard — joining with the *New York Times* in claiming that, in fact, there had been a riot.

The side of the mayor and New York City is taken by the *New York Daily News*. The *News* editorially defends Beame, laying the "burden of proof" on Con Ed. The *News* also notes that the much-publicized marauders "had moved as though on signal at the start of the power blackout."

Newsday: Blackout Shows Blacks Need Slave Labor

Newsday editorialized: "It's not a coincidence that the neighborhoods where housing, education, and employment are poorest...were the ones plagued by looting Wednesday night... The remedy," according to *Newsday*, is "jobs for youths and hispanics...the city is entitled to look to Washington."

In the wake of the New York blackout, much of the U.S. press has editorialized heavily for energy conservation and power rationing. The July 15 issue of Long Island's *Newsday* added a new wrinkle — by asserting that the blackout shows the need for a massive program of slave labor jobs to "help oppressed minorities."

While the *New York Times* and the *New York Post* did not issue such thinly veiled calls for a Humphrey-Hawkins national slave labor program, both papers heavily played up the looting as a "legitimate sociological tendency" resulting from "oppression." The *Times* went so far as to say the looting was the "white man's heritage for having so long mistreated" blacks and other minorities.

Press in Baltimore, Boston, and Chicago have echoed the *New York Post's* "24 Hours of Terror" headline with the constant query: "Can it happen here?" The *Boston Globe* has blamed the blackout on "too much technology."