

minces no words ("I am outraged") in criticizing Con Edison for not yet restoring power to the city (at that time only partial restoration has taken place and the "riot target" areas are still without power). Beame praises the police, firemen and other city workers for the tremendous effort in maintaining the safety and well-being of the population of the city, and thanks the citizens of the city for standing behind him and following the guidelines requested for the duration of the crisis (such as not making unnecessary calls into the police emergency number 911 such that real emergencies could be responded to with rapidity). The Mayor emphasizes throughout the question and answer period of the press conference that it is up to Con Ed to give a definitive time when power will be restored to the city. Finally, Beame announces the formation of a blue-ribbon panel to investigate Con Edison's "negligence."

\*\*In the afternoon hours, the press, in particular WINS, begins characterizing the looting in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area and elsewhere as expanding geographically. NSIPS calls police and fire officials in the area who deny this report, explaining that, on the contrary, the situation was becoming more and more "under control." However, WINS reports, from reporter Al Shaw, continue claiming that the situation is getting out of control. (Only later in the evening does Shaw reverse earlier reports after NSIPS had informed both Wins and police officials of the enormous characterizations being played over WINS!). At 3:00 p.m., Con Edison president Charles Luce, holds a press conference. He praises the Mayor for his outstanding "leadership" during the crisis

but claims that the Mayor has been "unfair" by attacking Con Edison.

A few hours later, CBS radio carries a "live" phone interview with Governor Carey trying to get Carey to admit that the National Guard could be called out imminently. But, at that point, even though power is still out in the "hot spots" throughout the city — Jamaica Queens, Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn and areas of the South Bronx and Harlem — the riot potential has been sharply reduced. Carey can only mutter that the city had the situation under control "at the present."

Around this time, NSIPS interviews an editorial board member of the *New York Times* Roger Starr who bitterly denounces the Mayor for not bringing the National Guard into the city. In another NSIPS interview, black Ford Foundation-funded counterinsurgent Les Campbell in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, laments that indeed there was really nothing going on in Bedford-Stuyvesant, but that he hopes to get "action" that night, "power or no power."

*Night Two: July 14*

\*\*A few last attempts are made to start a riot. Along with Leslie Campbell provocative threats, former Weatherunderground terrorist John Froines, now a radio personality on WBAI, claims police brutality where some of the looters are being held and demands that people mobilize to protest the next day in front of the detention areas.

Edwin Newman, NBC-TV personality, on his program

## New York Times' Starr: 'Beame Gets Hurt By Blackout'

*The following is a July 14 interview with Roger Starr, Editorial Board of the New York Times*

**Q:** Now that there has been so much looting throughout the city, do you think that the basis has been laid, with this destruction of key areas of the city, for your relocation proposals — that is your proposals to relocate people in the rundown, slum areas of the city to other areas?

**A:** People who called me inhuman, now see that local residents were not so happy with their life and responded this way. What has been destroyed now is the lifework of people who owned the local stores. Nobody could doubt how critical things are. But I am more interested in who gets hurt by this.

**Q:** What do you mean?

**A:** Well Beame gets hurt by this. It will hurt him considerably. People will remember him as the mayor who was mayor during the blackout.

**Q:** I understand there is a fight between Beame, Carey and Berger now. What is the reason for this?

**A:** The fight between Beame, Carey and Berger has been going on a long time. As a matter of fact Beame

would not receive Berger last night when he went to call at his home. Beame is furious over Carey's support for Cuomo for Mayor.

**Q:** Beame charged that the blackout may not have been an accident. Isn't this the basis of the dispute?

**A:** I don't believe that, do you? I heard Beame, he charged gross negligence, maybe worse.

**Q:** What do you think he meant by that?

**A:** He thinks that Con Ed knew the networks would be not sufficient to handle the load and did nothing.

**Q:** Why is he saying this? Why would Con Ed let this happen?

**A:** He has to do something to get the heat off him.

**Q:** Does Berger now have emergency powers?

**A:** Berger announced that he is representing the Governor. Beame should have asked for the National Guard to come out. There will be more looting tonight if the lights are not on. And it will spread because so many places have had looting. This has got to hurt Beame unless he alleges that Con Ed is responsible. There will be looting if the lights are not on and maybe if they are.