Finding Aid of the Kendall O. Price Los Angeles Riots records 7019

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USC Libraries Special Collections
2013
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URL: http://libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections
**Language of Material:** English  
**Contributing Institution:** USC Libraries Special Collections  
**Title:** Kendall O. Price Los Angeles Riots records  
**creator:** Price, Kendall O.  
**creator:** University of Southern California. School of Public Administration  
**Identifier/Call Number:** 7019  
**Identifier/Call Number:** 1927  
**Physical Description:** 1.5 Linear Feet1 document box, 2 audio reels  
**Date (inclusive):** 1965-1967  
**Abstract:** Kendall O. Price, a faculty member of the School of Public Administration at USC in the 1960s, organized with his colleagues a non-profit corporation called Public Executive Development and Research (PEDR) and worked closely with the School of Public Administration. They conducted two seminars and a conference which led to the Critique of the Governor's Commission on the Los Angeles Riots. The seminars dealt with issues in the African-American community and included grass roots leaders from the Watts area and social welfare agency executives from public and private agencies in Los Angeles County. The materials in this small collection are some of the products of that conference, including audiotapes of the sessions.

**Conditions Governing Access**  
Advance notice required for access.

**Historical Note**  
In August of 1965, six days of rioting ensued in the Watts region of Los Angeles after an African-American man was pulled over by the California Highway Patrol for drunk driving, and his mother and brother participated in the altercation when the police officer radioed for the man's vehicle to be impounded. Marquette Frye, the motorist, was subdued with physical force by several officers who were trying to arrest him. As the situation intensified, growing crowds of local residents watching the exchange began yelling and throwing objects at the police officers. After Frye was arrested along with his mother and brother, the crowds continued to grow and the police returned to the scene several times that night to break them up and were attacked with rocks and concrete. The ensuing six days saw a 46-square mile area of Los Angeles transformed into a combat zone. During the rioting, 3900 National Guardsmen were called out who enforced a curfew when martial law was declared. In addition to the guardsmen, 934 Los Angeles Police officers and 718 officers from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department were deployed during the rioting. It was estimated that between 31,000 and 35,000 adults participated in the riots over the course of six days, while twice that many were "sympathetic, but not active."

Prior to 1992, the Watts riot was the most severe in the city's history, resulting in 34 deaths, 1032 injuries, 3438 arrests, and over $40 million in property damage. After the Watts riot, there was much debate regarding what really happened and why. Governor Pat Brown appointed a commission to investigate the riots--known as the McCone Commission, because it was headed by former CIA director John A. McCone. The result of the Commission was a 101-page report entitled Violence in the City--An End or a Beginning?: A Report by the Governor's Commission on the Los Angeles Riots, 1965. The report identified the root causes of the riots to be high unemployment, poor schools, and other inferior living conditions for African Americans in Watts. Recommendations for addressing these problems included "emergency literacy and pre-school programs, improved police-community ties, increased low-income housing, more job-training projects, upgraded health-care services, more efficient public transportation, and many more."

The idea to "revisit" the McCone Commission report originated with Dr. Kent M. Lloyd who ran for California State Superintendent of Public Instruction and for U.S. Congress in California, and was later an official at the U.S. Department of Education working directly with Ted Bell, the Secretary of Education. During this time, Dean Henry Reining was the Dean of the School of Public Administration at USC where Kendall Price was on the faculty. He and his colleagues felt it was important to get another perspective on the McCone report and USC's relation to the African-American community. They organized a non-profit corporation called Public Executive Development and Research (PEDR), Inglewood, California. Working closely with the School of Public Administration, they conducted two seminars and the conference which led to the Critique of the Governor's Commission on the Los Angeles Riots. (Dr. Price stated that they originally had called it The McCone Report Revisited, but doesn't remember when or why the title got changed.) As the two-day conference was being organized, Dean Reining received a call from John McCone about the conference who was apparently concerned about a conference dealing with the McCone Commission-- and John McCone was also a member of the USC Board of Trustees. He must have been reassured by Reining since the Conference went on as planned.
In creating this Critique, PEDR had the involvement of civic leaders, intergroup relations professionals, government agency heads, academics, and leaders from the community. Thanks to Dr. Lloyd, PEDR received financial support from the U.S. Office of Education to conduct two eight-week seminars dealing with issues in the African-American community. The first of these was with twenty intergroup relations and social welfare agency executives from public, private, federal, state, and local agencies in Los Angeles County. The second included twenty African-American grass roots leaders from the Watts area, including Ron Everett- Karenga who became internationally respected as a founder of Kwanza. These seminars were a lead-up to the conference that would deal with the McCone Report, and included preparation of papers which would be presented at the later conference.

It is Dr. Price's belief that their report--and the activities that led to its creation--helped to begin building a stronger relationship between USC and the neighborhood it inhabits. Prior to this period, USC was known more for its football team than for its academic reputation, and it was not as involved in community issues as it is now. Even though USC is not in Watts, the neighborhood and community around USC struggles with many of the same social and racial issues as its more southern neighborhood.

Scope and Content
The collection is comprised of the reports created as a result of two seminars and a conference related to a critique of the McCone Report following the 1965 Los Angeles riots. In addition to the reports directly related to the seminars and conference, the materials include documents from training programs for U.S. Air Force Security and Law Enforcement Officers for 1965, 1966, and 1967. These publications were the result of work done through USC with Air Force Law Enforcement personnel to help them establish skills in administration and in dealing with race relations, relative to the work done on the McCone report. Each of the participants was assigned a different city administrator--many of whom had been educated at the USC School of Public Administration--to gain experience, share ideas, and prepare a written report.

Related Finding Aids at the University of Southern California
Los Angeles Webster Commission records
Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department records
Los Angeles Riots (1965) records
Richard M. Mosk Christopher Commission records

Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], Kendall O. Price Los Angeles Riots records, Collection no. 7019, Regional History Collection, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Acquisition
The materials were donated by Dr. Kendall O. Price, formerly of USC's School of Public Administration.

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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Civil rights -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Riots -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Watts (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Race relations -- Archival resources
Ephemera
Reports
Lloyd, Kent -- History-Sources
Price, Kendall O. -- Archives
Reining, Henry -- History-Sources
University of Southern California. School of Public Administration -- Archives

Box 1        Ephemera 452771
Map of Los Angeles Riot area 449282 1965
Scope and Content
Map of Los Angeles riot area (1965) showing key to damaged or destroyed buildings, lootings, and deaths.

Box 1

Publications 452772

Violence in the City-- An End or a Beginning? 449287 1965
Scope and Content
Publication of a "Report by the Governor's Commission on the Los Angeles Riots." 101 pages. Includes a separate letter to Governor Pat Brown (December 2, 1965) signed by the members of the Commission. A sheet of handwritten notes/diagrams accompanies the publication and the letter.

Planned Community Development Through Executive Leadership Seminars... 449295
1967
Scope and Content
Publication is subtitled A pilot project in University-Urban Intergroup Relations in Los Angeles, Volume I. Authored by Kent Lloyd, Kendall O. Price, Ellsworth E. Johnson, and William J. Williams with the assistance of Ron Everett-Karenga. Published by the University of Southern California.

Critique of the Governor's Commission on the Los Angeles Riot... 449296 1967
Scope and Content

Field Studies in Police Administration: Theory and Practice 449297 1965 March
Scope and Content
Published by the University of Southern California, the report was produced by U.S. Air Force Security and Law Enforcement Officers, participants in The Third Police Administration Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Officers. 179 pages.

Field Studies in Police Administration 452770 1967 June
Scope and Content
This report is subtitled by U.S. Air Force Security Police Officers, participants in the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Police Administration Institute for Security and Law Enforcement Officers. 490 pages.

Air Force Police Management: Professional Education and Field Studies 452769 1966
Scope and Content
Edited by Kendall O. Price, Kent Lloyd, Melvin J. LeBaron, and Ellsworth Johnson, this report "describes the Fourth Police Administration Institute for U.S. Air Force Security and Law Enforcement Officers, held January 3, through February 25, 1966, at the Civic Center Campus of the University of Southern California. This eight-week course was designed to provide advanced leadership training in police management for selected Air Force Officers responsible to the Directorate of Security and Law Enforcement, and representing bases throughout the United States. Held under the direction of the University of Southern California School of Public Administration, the Institute was conducted by the Center for Training and Career Development at the Civic Center Campus of this University." Excerpt taken from the preface of the report by Melvin J. LeBaron. 232 pages.
Scope and Content
Two seven-inch reels which are unlabelled but described by Kendall Price in the letter accompanying his donation. He explains that the tapes deal with the second day of a two-day conference in 1967 in which he and other members of the faculty of the (USC) School of Public Administration participated, calling it "The McCone Report Revisited"-- later changed to "The Critique of the Governor's Commission on the Los Angeles Riots."