

Statement: “This is frustration.”

Speaker: I had the occasion, yesterday to write a letter to Chief Kelly. I commended him and his department on the manner in which they handled the march at the Memorial Mall. I regret that now must write another letter to Chief Kelly, condemning him for the way he handled the youth of our city. I know police are expected to maintain law and order. I understand that they expect to be obeyed, but what we had today was not a police force. We had a Gestapo, a militia, and we, the Negro citizens of Kansas City, must not – no let me be more emphatic – we will not have any such action again.

I know that this is not all members of the police force, but there were trigger-happy members of the police force. There was unjustified use of force. There was unjustified use of gas, and the Negro community will resent it. And they will continue to show their resentment by the use of force. This is frustration. They know no other method. So, until we change the root causes of the Negro’s frustration – jobs, housing, police brutality – we are not going to change riots in our street.