

PROTESTS, RALLIES, DEMONSTRATIONS
A NIGHT IN CHICAGO

**Pacifica Radio Archives: “Protests, Rallies,
Demonstrations”**

(Funded by The Ford Foundation)

Transcript of A Night in Chicago, produced by Elsa Knight Thompson. A documentary report on the demonstrations in Chicago during the 1968 Democratic National Convention. Reported by Bob Fass, Dale Minor and Bill Watson. Includes actuality of Bobby Seale, Black Panther Party co-founder, outside the Convention Center at a Black Panther rally; comedian Dick Gregory at President Lyndon Johnson’s “un-birthday” party; and reports on the police brutality at a prayer vigil from poet Allen Ginsberg and radio personality-author-oral historian Studs Terkel.

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We appreciate your comments, additions and corrections. Please address them to: Brian DeShazor, Director, Pacifica Radio Archives, 3729 Cahuenga Blvd., West, North Hollywood, CA 91604. Phone: (800) 735-0230, e-mail: pacarchive@aol.com. Also contact Pacifica Radio Archives for information regarding audio CDs.

Transcript

**“A NIGHT IN CHICAGO”
Produced by Elsa Knight Thompson**

ELSA KNIGHT THOMPSON (EKT): Early yesterday evening, a marching line of demonstrators, two blocks long, twenty-five abreast, attempted to get down La Salle Street to Grant Park opposite Democratic headquarters in the Conrad Hilton, after attending a Black Panther rally, at which Bobby Seale, National Chairman of the Panthers, spoke.

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BOBBY SEALE: Revolution in this country is (UNCLEAR, SPOKEN THROUGH MEGAPHONE), in fact, people coming forth to demand freedom. (APPLAUSE)

Revolution (UNCLEAR) and especially the Black Panthers – the message that the Black Panther Party sends forth, is also directly connected with organized guns and bullets. We must understand that, as we go forth to try and removed the scurvy reprobate pig, Lyndon Baynes Johnson, the fat pig Humphrey, the jive double-lipped talking Nixon, we go forth (APPLAUSE). When we go forth, we go forth as human beings to remove these pigs, these hogs in the power structure murdering, brutalizing people not only here in the confines of racist, decadent America, but murdering and brutalizing and oppressing people all over the world. Now, when we go forth to deal with them, the (UNCLEAR) racist dirty rotten pigs to occupy the people, to occupy the community, such as the way they have this park here occupied. Now, just a second. There's a lesson that Minister of Defense Huey P. Newton teaches that whenever a people disagree with the political decisions that have been made upon their heads, that whenever the people disagree with those political decisions, the racist power structure sends their guns in force to see that the people accept those political decisions, but we are here as revolutionaries to let them know that we *refuse* to accept those political decisions that maintain the oppression of our Black people and all people of the world. (APPLAUSE)

EKT: The marchers were divided and partially dispersed when they encountered a police barricade at La Salle and (UNCLEAR STREET NAME). About half the crowd *did* reform and make its way through to Grant Park. The rest returned to Lincoln Park.

Downtown in the Coliseum, a 'non-birthday' party for LBJ took place in the early part of

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the evening where a number of speakers, including Dave Delinger, Jean Genet, Terry Southern, Allen Ginsberg, Abby Hoffman and Dick Gregory, were heard.

DICK GREGORY (DG): (APPLAUSE) And our hope, when you leave here, you don't talk about the Chicago police, you don't talk about (UNCLEAR). They ain't nothing but a bunch of German soldiers, the number one Nazi is Mayor Richard J. Daley and don't you never forget that. (APPLAUSE) And I say to you tonight, had there been a bunch of young people that challenged Hitler the way you're challenging Mayor Richard J. Daley, there might be a whole lot of Jews alive today. (APPLAUSE) And I say to you I'm glad that you came here because a lot of you got a lesson firsthand here. A lot of you really didn't realize what you were fucking. A lot of you – and this *fool* gave the *keynote* address.

DG: Let me tell you young folks something. You went this far with Eugene, but don't never let nobody trick you into the Democratic Party again. (APPLAUSE) And so I say to you youngsters, you've got a job. You've got a *helluva* job because I can't even stand here as a 36-year-old American and say that us older folks even *started* the job for you. You had a *helluva* job on your hands and I hope your Chicago will prove to you what you got to do.

EKT: The large crowd, leaving this gathering, swelled the ranks of those already assembled at both Grant and Lincoln Parks. Curfew during the Convention in both these parks is eleven p.m. It is a fact I offer without comment, that there has been virtually no

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police violence against the demonstrators in Grant Park, facing the major hotels. Last night was a case in point, as this interview indicates. (CHANTS AND APPLAUSE)

BOB FASS: I'm Bob Fass and I'm now standing in Grant Park where there's a fairly large convocation of people outside of the Hilton Hotel. The delegates seem to be, or some people, obviously the delegates must be in the Convention now, but there are some people who were craning out of the windows of the hotel. There doesn't seem to be very much happening here. The only indication that there may perhaps be some action is that there are, uh, oh, sprinkled in this crowd of – How many would you say there are? – About two thousand people - There are a few hundred people who have, uh, Vaseline smeared on their faces and, uh, seem to be ready – and I was looking at someone who is wearing what they think is a mace mask, they might be prepared to risk it, but at the moment, this crowd doesn't seem to be offering anything more than, uh, shouts of “Hey, hey, LBJ,” and “What do you want? And we want it now!” A young man with a Ted Kennedy button on is lying up against the tree and a call for medic just went out. There *is* a very large medical contingent here. (EXPLOSION)

EKT: But in Lincoln Park, the police moved in in force and under circumstances requiring some explanation. Earlier in the day, a group of twenty-five clergy, representing all denominations, acting in cooperation with a concerned citizens group, had announced that they would hold religious services in Lincoln Park, beginning at 11:00, and it is estimated that at least 400 clergymen were in the park as the police moved in. Pacifica reporters take up the story.

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BOB FASS: This is Bob Fass and we've been returned to the Lincoln Park area. There's been a worship service being conducted in the park. There twenty-five clergymen of all denominations from Chicago have been conducting a worship service in the park, and it's now 12:30. That means that the curfew has been in effect for an hour and a half and, uh, it looks as though the hastily assembled inter-denominational congregation is being moved out of the park by the police. (TO DEMONSTRATOR) Can you tell me what's been happening so far tonight?

DEMONSTRATOR: Not a thing, not a thing. Nothing came through. Not a thing. Nice, normal operation.

BOB FASS: (DEMONSTRATOR) Excuse me, do you mind telling me what's been happening so far this evening?

DEMONSTRATOR: So far this evening, there are a group of clergymen in there holding a worship service with very many people sitting around. I'd hate to say how many.

(CAR HORNS)

BOB FASS: Is the service still going on?

DEMONSTRATOR: The service is still going on.

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BOB FASS: Have you had any kind of assurances from the police that you'll be undisturbed?

DEMONSTRATOR: No.

DEMONSTRATOR: Assurances that what?

BOB FASS: That you'll be undisturbed?

DEMONSTRATOR: No, the police have done the opposite. They've said that any clergymen found in the park will be arrested.

DEMONSTRATOR: That anybody found in the park will be arrested, clergymen or non-clergymen.

BOB FASS: Thank you very much. You were just telling me, while the recorder was off, that there was a minister beaten last night.

DEMONSTRATOR: There was a seminary student studying to become a minister who was beaten last night. He's in the hospital right now with a fractured skull.

BOB FASS: Was that, uh, motivation for this meeting tonight?

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DEMONSTRATOR: Not necessarily, no. The meeting was going to take place whether that happened or not.

BOB FASS: People seem to be leaving the park very rapidly now and I heard a light explosion that might have been a tear gas canister. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

BILL WATSON (BW): This is Bill Watson back on the scene at Lincoln Park. After arriving here, I ran into Allen Ginsberg and Jean Genet as they ran out of the worship service that was being conducted here. Uh, the demonstrators are now ripping down trees as the police, it seems, moved in and began to shoot teargas into the park to break up the service. You can smell the teargas. Some of the demonstra – (SHOUTS, SCREAMS IN THE BACKGROUND, EXPLOSIONS) Some of the demonstrators, uh, went back into the park and started to, to, uh, - Some of the demonstrators ran back into the park with a few sticks. The police are now – The police are now moving across in, uh, a rank, shooting teargas. Some of the kids are ripping off leaves. They're holding their faces. You can see the teargas in the air. They have large fire trucks with lights. The gas is around my eyes. They're beginning to burn a little bit. I'm going to walk over. The police are walking forward with rifles and clubs out. They are moving over, with gas masks. The area is completely lighted up. There's trucks with multiple lights on it. They have shot off teargas. As I mentioned earlier, Allen Ginsberg and Jean Genet came around. At my feet just now was a teargas or some kind of instrument. There's now a line of police in helmets. The light truck has been brought forward. There are a few brave photographers and others in the middle. I am now in line between the

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demonstrators on one side. I'm going to get out of the way a little bit, as a few of the demonstrators are throwing rocks, etc. (BACKGROUND NOISE OF DEMONSTRATORS)

BW: I had to quickly retreat as someone began to throw a few cans. I want to get close enough so that they can see that it's Pacifica Radio here and not Police Radio. You can begin to now feel the gas. They're moving back slowly. I don't know where we are in the park. There are no street signs. The truck is now spraying – the truck is spraying – (EXPLOSIONS, SHOUTS, BACKGROUND CHAOS) The truck is spraying a gas. The kids are now moving back into the street and for the first time, this reporter can feel whatsoever it is that's – they're (UNCLEAR), and pushing and shoving. I'm trying to get far enough back so I can see what's happening, but it's almost impossible to be able to give you a report as my eyes begin to burn. Bill Watson here and I'm going to – (BEGINS COUGHING) God damn! – (TRYING TO RECOVER) The crowd is running. The crowd is running very, very rapidly toward us here. They are leaving the park very, very quickly. I see Allen Ginsberg and Jean Genet. Allen, can you talk to me?

BW: I understand that you've lost your voice. (INAUDIBLE, HEAR TAPE TURNED ON AND OFF) Did the police charge?

ALLEN GINSBERG: (CROWD NOISE) Yeah, it was gas and I think smoke bombs, too. We weren't close enough, believe me, to see exactly what they were doing.

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BW: Well, what did you hear? Explosions and –

GINSBERG: Gas grenades, mostly gas grenades and they were coming motorized. They weren't walking. Some were walking, some were, uh, riding, either three-wheeled motorcycles or motorcycles, or even cars, I don't know. I don't know. That's as much as I know.

BW: They've been threatening for about an hour, haven't they? Since eleven o'clock.

GINSBERG: They've been standing there, but they didn't advance until about ten minutes ago. Exactly the time as last night. When they advanced, they advanced very fast.

BW: Uh, a non-striking truck driver is coming by and the crowd is shouting, "Scab, scab!" (BACKGROUND TALK) I see people – Hi, Jim. How are you? What happened?

JIM: Hey, I was just over there. It looks like they've got some kind of a personnel carrier. There is goes, see with the lights? They've, uh - I can only see silhouettes, but I couldn't tell whether they were troops or police. I don't know. See that personnel carrier. It's got those beam lights and –

BW: Is it spraying gas?

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JIM: Tear gas, a lot of tear gas.

BW: Is it spraying gas?

JIM: No, they've got their own – I think they've got their own gas guns, you know.
They've got tear gas guns in their hands.

BW: Where's Jean?

JIM: She's upstairs. I hope so. I hope she wasn't over there.

BW: I can smell the tear gas now. It's unmistakable. Get cold water into your eyes as soon as you can. Stick your head right under it and get the cold water in your eyes.

(COUGHING, BACKGROUND TALK)

JIM: Cold water in them?

BW: Right, right. If you can find a fountain, just let the cold water come right up into your eyes.

(JEAN GENET ARRIVES)

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BW: I don't know how I can interview without being able to speak French.

JEAN GENET: (SPEAKS IN FRENCH)

BW: I said I don't know how I can interview Mr. Genet without being able to speak French, but I guess you're going to help me.

TRANSLATOR: I could help, yes.

BW: Where were you when this happened?

(FRENCH SPEAKER ASKS QUESTION IN FRENCH AND TRANSLATES
GENET'S ANSWER)

GENET (IN TRANSLATION): Next to the cross, near the priests who were sitting on the ground.

BW: And were the priests – What were the priests doing? Praying and trying to influence the universe to be a little bit more benign?

GENET (IN TRANSLATION): They were very peaceful and quiet, seated, trying to keep calm.

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BW: And then what happened?

GENET (IN TRANSLATION): I don't have, uh, I don't have very much practice with religious ceremonies, but I find it strange that police interrupt religious ceremonies in the middle of the night.

BW: Do you have any other comments? Would something like this happen in Paris?

GENET (IN TRANSLATION): Of course.

BW: But nonetheless, it's strange.

TRANSLATOR: He says, one should either be on the sides of the, uh, the religious-minded or the cops, one or the other.

BW: Did you say religious minded or blinded? (That's a pun that's impossible to translate, I'm afraid.) Thank you.

GENET: (SPEAKING IN FRENCH)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank God for those ministers tonight.

BW: Inter-denominational services.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, the police had to move against the cross?

(CHUCKLES) It's regrettable.(UNCLEAR) Funnier, 'cause it's like, uh, (UNCLEAR), Genet, Terry Southern, myself and the Chicago, like, weird, uh, radio columnist Studs Terkel, Life Magazine reporters, New York Times reporters, Village Voice reporters, all of them weeping with teargas, just flowing up and down in the streets. It's pretty incredible. The citizens all completely freaked out.

BW: In a way, teargas forces you to react emotionally to what is going on in this society.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I don't know. It's suddenly turned into an enormous comedy. It really turned into a great comedy. It's like a class reunion of all sort of tendencies in Chicago for many years, an international tendency (to just) lobby the Hotel (UNCLEAR) on the Park, where everybody rammed those gates and the streets got filled with gas. The poor Time-Life Photographer was flat on his back, having his picture taken and weeping out on his ass with teargas.

STUDS TERKEL (ST): My city, Chicago. So we go to the park, often for joy and for beauty. And tonight I never saw as much ugliness and, uh, stupidity and brutality.

PACIFICA ANCHOR (IN-STUDIO): This, this is – I can't hear this. Oh, this is Studs Terkel that Bob is interviewing. Studs is the author of the best-selling book Tradition

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Street America. Excuse us for interrupting for our technical problems. We just want to identify Mr. Terkel.

STUDS TERKEL: These “finest,” the boys in blue. Never dreamed that Daley would be this brutish or stupid. I heard about last night. I wasn’t there, but I thought I’d go tonight just to enjoy the evening air, you know, and, uh, there was a cross. Obviously, being near a cross is very dangerous these days, and there were songs and there were young ministers and kids enjoying themselves. I thought (UNCLEAR) – Lincoln, by the way, is a beautiful park, near the lake front and quite lovely and then came the voice over the speaker warning to us and then came our city’s finest and, as my friend James Cameron, visitor from England says – he’s over there - He says it looked by Agincourt for a moment and there they were, all lined up in battle helmets and there were just young people, unarmed, just looking at them really – a little furious – and the cops came along and then came the teargas. First time – never tasted it before – and so it came twice and, uh, but I guess the thing that moved me most, though, were the kids and young ministers. Kids putting Vaseline on your eyes and giving you blankets – some, really something, you know – and young ministers giving advice and suddenly you realize, this is a double strain on our society - the Neanderthal man of the 20th Century and the possibility for enlightenment. And so I think the lines were really, the issue was joined, I think, tonight. In my favorite park, Lincoln Park, Chicago, on this beautiful autumn evening, August what? August whatever it is.

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BOB FASS: I'm not sure of the date and that means that I forgot to send LBJ a birthday card this year. It's his birthday.

STUDS: It's on LBJ's birthday. I hadn't thought about that. I think it's quite appropriate, which is as it should be, I think, for all of our enlightenment and maybe, (SIRENS) maybe this was good for those who were there to see it. It was good. I'm just wondering about our visitors from different countries who were here, the learning about this new world, that suddenly becomes so old, almost primordial. But I enjoyed the company very much, the company I'm with right now. There's a phrase – Brendan Behan used this, you know – Uh, talking about the amphitheater, which the kids called “anti-life,” and I guess they're right at that and life that is here. Brendon Behan says, “You have your friends and I have mine.” I might say, “They have their friends and I have mine.” I found my friends here tonight.

BOB FASS: Thank you. That was Studs Terkel.

JAMES CAMERON (JC): I'm James Cameron from London and, uh, the ironic thing about this is I don't even have a vote.

BOB FASS: You were in the park with someone else this afternoon. You were just visiting Chicago.

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JC: I was just visiting with my friend, Studs Terkel, and, uh, this was a very interesting sort of reception, I must say. I would say not altogether too good for the tourist industry, but the only inconvenience I suffered as I've just had a tooth kicked out, but I guess that I must admit that they were kind enough to give me gas first. (LAUGHS) I quite seriously think this is the most barbarous and outrageous God damn thing I have seen in twenty-five years of seeing God damn, outrageous things all over the world. I have never seen anything so brutal as this.

BOB FASS: Very religious worship service, I understand.

JC: So I believe, yes, which, uh, probably makes it even worse.

BOB FASS: Is that tooth all right? Are you gonna –

JC: Oh, it'll be all right. If I ever find it again, of course. (LAUGHS)

BOB FASS: That's unfortunate.

JC: No, it's a very terribly sad thing. I've been, I've been a constant visitor to this country now for twenty-five years, but I had never believed that this could, in fact, have been mounted, an operation against the multitudes of totally peaceful people. To be outraged in this fashion seems to me to be monstrous and a denial of liberty.

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BOB FASS: Do you – In seeing what is happening here, as I have gone through the crowd in between the teargas, entwining the Allen Ginsbergs and entwining people like yourself, young people, reporters, all somewhat earlier tonight, weeping about our society, where do you think we'll go from here?

JC: I would think this is probably the stage – before the last and the society that *should* have been in a position to have been an exemplar to the whole world is now beginning to collapse before us. It has got a great future, but on different lines than the ones it's already running on. Something even more terrible has got to happen before things get better.

EKT: In the early hours of this morning, the National Guard was moved into downtown Chicago, replacing the Chicago police. There were still large crowds in front of the Conrad Hilton Hotel, where Dale Minor took his mike at 4:00 am this morning.

(SINGING & CLAPPING IN BACKGROUND, "Down by the Riverside, Ain't Gonna Study War No More")

DALE MINOR: This is an incredible scene, as most scenes during this week in this Convention City have been. We are in Grant Park directly across the street from the Conrad Hilton Hotel, the headquarters of the Democratic Party during this week. The headquarters of the Democratic Convention, the headquarters of the Humphrey and McCarthy delegations – cut that - The headquarters of the Humphrey and McCarthy

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camp. (BACKGROUND SINGING, "I'm gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside...") In front of the hotel, brilliant TV lights are nearly blinding as you look at them, and on both sides of the street, facing this crowd of thousands of demonstrators singing, "I ain't gonna study war no more," are helmeted National Guard troops wielding M1 rifles. Yes?

PACIFICA VOLUNTEER WORKER: I was there before. I'm one of your volunteer workers from the station. (INAUDIBLE)

(BACKGROUND ANNOUNCEMENTS IN MEGAPHONE, APPLAUSE FOR SPEAKER)

CARL ROGERS: (FROM PODIUM THROUGH MEGAPHONE) My name is Carl Rogers. I'm your national coordinator of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. (APPLAUSE) (INAUDIBLE) I've heard your invitation (UNCLEAR) and I'm happy to come down and join you. I represent a group of men who have witnessed first-hand the American intervention in Vietnam, and now we are witnessing the intervention by the (UNCLEAR) in the democratic process of the Democratic National Convention. I think it's clear that the same hypocrisy and the same stupidity are behind both interventions. (CROWD, "OH YEAH," APPLAUSE)

SPEAKER FROM PODIUM: We've got some more news from uptown, from the North Side. It's nice to feel that we've done something and that's true and we feel good about

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it. We're here and we're gonna stay. We're gonna stay in Chicago. We're gonna stay in America and we're gonna grow until we change it. (APPLAUSE) But we've got to remember something and it's true right here tonight in Chicago. They're letting us talk now. They're letting us dance in the streets. They're letting us sing songs. That's in front of the Hilton. That's because the media's across the street. (CROWD CHEERS) It's because we've got delegates here who've gotta go back to that convention floor tomorrow and if they tell what happens here the way it might happen, that convention will fall apart, it will stop! (APPLAUSE, CHEERS) It *can* be done. That convention will *stop*. Now, that's why they're not gonna do what they might do here, but there's another part of town where we are. There's Lincoln Park. (CHEERS, APPLAUSE) Now, we all know, we all know, those of us who have not been living in the Conrad Hilton, that there's been a fight going on in Lincoln Park for several days. Every night, when it gets dark, the fight begins. We don't start it. All we want to do is sleep there and talk and live, but every night at 11:00 we must leave. Now, tonight - and this has happened just recently - we left the park tonight. We left because we had to because they laid teargas down. Right now, the pigs who are no longer here - (SHOUTS OF "OFF THE PIGS") - (INAUDIBLE) The people who work for the police department who are being used to enforce a police state and an armed camp in Chicago, who are being used by people higher than them, (APPLAUSE), right now, they are hurting our brothers. The Boston Movements there is located in a church at 834 West Armitage Avenue. Very shortly, there were ten men within one car who invaded an apartment right next to the Boston Movement Center on Armitage Avenue. They had no search warrants. They asked no questions. They made everybody lie down on the floor. They took money.

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They didn't ask any questions. They didn't say why they were there. We know why they were there. They were there because they can do up there what they can't do down here.

What we're gonna say is, we remember our brothers. We will not forget that our brothers are up in Lincoln Park tonight and that what happens to them, happens also to us.

(CROWD NOISE, "That's right!", CHEERS, APPLAUSE) And that what happens to them tonight will be answered by us tomorrow. (APPLAUSE)

SPEAKER WITH MEGAPHONE: Right now, someone who has a slightly different view from most of the people in the park would like to say what his view of the war is.

SPEAKER: (CROWD CAT-CALLS THROUGHOUT) Ladies and Gentlemen and hippies and yippies and people, but then again, I am not discriminating against anybody. No, no, no. I want quiet. Will you please hear my views? I have spent eleven months in Vietnam. Fine, but then again, I would just like you to hear my views. Would you please keep quiet. I am not here to discriminate against anybody. I am not here to (INAUDIBLE). I am here to voice my views. All right. Being in Vietnam for eleven months, I have seen it. Most of you people have not. Then, again, I know you don't care. All right. Fine. (SHOUTS) Please, please be quiet. I would like to voice my opinion. All right, all right, all right. Please be quiet. I've told you. I don't want any violence. I'm not here to incite a riot. I just want to tell you what I think. In my opinion, I don't think Vietnam, South Vietnam is worth the United States being there. But listen to me. We are there. We have been there for a long time. I will not shut up. Please hear my views. I want you to hear my views. (CROWD SHOUTS) All right, all right. We

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have been there for a long time. We have lost a lot of American boys, men – men, let's say men – No, they are worth a lot more than Vietnamese. (BOO'S FROM CROWD)

People, people. Listen, listen, listen, listen to what I have to say, please. Listen to what I have to say. We are talking about Vietnamese people. We are talking about Vietnamese people. We are talking about American boys. Yes. I am not here to incite a riot. I'm just trying to voice my opinion. Will you please be quiet? All right, all right, all right. I will voice my opinion. Please don't hit. (CROWD "HE'S A PLANT, HE'S A PLANT")

All right. Since we are in this war and we have lost 25,000 men or more, don't you think, since we are in, as American citizens (CROWD VOICE, "Racist!") – as American people, leaders of tomorrow, that we should, that we should, as American citizens and leaders of tomorrow, win this war once and for all? (CROWD SHOUTS, "No!") Then, I ask you one question, as American people and as American citizens and leaders of tomorrow, then again, what shall we do, what shall we do about tomorrow? Should we get out of this war? (CROWD RESPONSE, "Yes!")

PRIEST (WITH MEGAPHONE): (SHOUTING) I came down here – I came down here from Lincoln Park tonight. I came down in a car. Three thousand other people stayed uptown because the streets are insane. There are too many policemen on it.

(APPLAUSE) There was teargas in Lincoln Park. There was a lot of teargas. There was so much teargas that I had to carry my brother out of the park because he was blinded by it. I'd like to now introduce you to a minister who was also at Lincoln Park. There were two hundred of them and the first teargas bombs fell right next to their circle. They were holding a prayer service next to a large cross.

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PRIEST: To the demonstrators, I'd like to say that I'm a Catholic priest from Minnesota. I'm thirty years old and first of all, I apologize for the fact that there are not more of us from the clergy and from professional areas of life who are willing to stick our neck out and speak out to the feelings that I know are the same for many, many people around the world, around this country, especially. First of all, a realization of something's wrong in this structure and secondly, that we need a change. To the delegates that are within earshot, I would like to say, don't lock yourself in your ivory towers as we in the church have so often done. (APPLAUSE) Most of us have heard the beatitudes that Christ preached. Too many of us have changed them to read – I would like to share with you the following,

“I was hungry and you formed a humanities club, discussed my hunger.” (Thank you.)

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel in the cellar and prayed for my release.

I was naked and in your mind, you debated the morality of my appearance.

I was sick. You knelt and thanked God for *your* health.

I was lonely. You left me alone to pray for me.

I was murdered and you shed a tear for me.

You seemed so holy, so close to God, but I'm still very hungry and lonely and cold.”

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VOICE: Amen. (APPLAUSE)

PRIEST: I'd like to sum up by saying – To the delegates, I would ask you to listen to the voice of the prophets, who are speaking not only outwardly, but for many people who are afraid, who have too much to lose, too much to compromise and therefore are not willing to speak out. Delegates, listen to these. They are all over the country. To the demonstrators, I'd ask that we be calm. Try to, first of all, work through the structure, through the system, do the best that we can by acting as responsible human beings. There are no pigs on either side of this fence and it doesn't help to call either side 'pigs.' I, myself, (APPLAUSE, "THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT") – If anybody feels like a pig, I do these days, because I haven't had a shower in a few days either, and I'm used to having one every day, but getting involved here – I came up from Minnesota because I felt that there were a lot of things that are *not* being represented. We nearly had the unit rule in Minnesota. I was involved in politics there, and the ratio of the delegation – 38 and a half to thirteen and a half – does not represent the people of Minnesota.

(APPLAUSE) There's been a lot of backroom politics. One senator told me, as I got involved in politics, that you have to realize that there are politics on both sides of the issue. I asked him if he used the word 'politics' as synonymous with "dirty business," which I felt it should not be, and this is why I think we need more clergymen, more lawyers, and professional people, and *all* types of people getting involved in the mainstream of life, basing it on a principle of honesty and not expediency or compromise.

(APPLAUSE) The more time we spend in compromising ourselves, it seems the more time we have to cover up for our mistakes. If we make mistakes, let's admit them and try

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to be honest, looking ahead. And if the parties are going to, to look backwards constantly, as our beloved Senator Kennedy said, "He who clings to a even a present that's already dying hasn't much to offer to the future." We have to look ahead (APPLAUSE) and therefore I would ask more clergymen, more professional people, especially, to be willing to stand up and speak out, and all of us to put the cards up on the table, be honest and as honest and as uncompromising as possibly we can. Thank you. (APPLAUSE) Okay. I've been waiting all day to speak here.

(CROWD CHANTING, "Two, four, six, eight, organize the Fascist State")

PACIFICA REPORTER DALE MINOR: You've been listening to speeches delivered over a loudspeaker system from the midst of a large group of, uh, originally from 2,000, perhaps now down to 1,500 or a thousand people gathered here in Grant Park, across the street from the Conrad Hilton Hotel. As it grows later, the people gathered here seemed to be wandering off. No action has been taken by the troops assembled in two ranks, one on this side of Michigan Avenue (and two on this side of Michigan Avenue), and two on the far side of Michigan Avenue, both facing this way. They are at parade rest, while earlier they were holding their rifles on their hips in a ready position. One would guess that nothing more will happen here tonight, but you have heard a statement by at least one speaker that a march on the amphitheater is intended for tomorrow. The most significant development which has occurred tonight, of course, is the introduction of troops. Uh, as a matter of fact, with troops now on the scene, replaced the ranks of blue helmeted and blue uniformed Chicago police that were here several hours ago. As a

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matter of fact, two hours ago, police were holding the line that the troops with their M1's and their jeeps, with sixty caliber machine guns mounted on some, are holding now. The jeeps are parked directly in front of the front entrance of the Conrad Hilton.

EKT: On this program, we have told you a part of the story of Chicago, from early Tuesday evening, August 27th to 5:00 am this morning, August 28th.

End of Transcript of "A Night in Chicago."

NOTES:

1. Pacifica Radio coverage of demonstrations at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, produced and narrated by Pacifica Radio/KPFA founding Public Affairs Director Elsa Knight Thompson.
2. Actuality gives the essence of the revolutionary spirit of the time. A strong contrast to the major media coverage which focused on the official activities of the convention and which reacted with shock to the violent actions of the Chicago police against the massed (mostly young) demonstrators, particularly those meeting in Grant Park.
3. Black Panther Party National Chairman, Bobby Seale, addresses the demonstrators. His message is revolution which he describes as connected to "organized guns and bullets." He describes sitting US President LBJ and assumed major party candidates Hubert Humphrey (Democrat) and Richard Nixon (Republican) were racist "pigs" and "hogs." He addresses the mostly youthful,

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- predominantly white crowd as “revolutionaries” and warns them that the “racist power structure” will react to their refusal to accept political decisions which oppress Black people with violence. The crowd cheers.
4. Elsa Knight Thompson describes a ‘non-birthday’ party held for US President LBJ (who had decided not to run for re-election), including speakers Dave Dellinger, Terry Southern, Allen Ginsberg, and Dick Gregory.
 5. Comedian Dick Gregory referring to Chicago mayor Richard Daley as a Nazi (to great applause).
 6. “Eugene” refers to Eugene McCarthy, US Representative and US Senator from Minnesota, unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic Nomination for President in 1968, 1972, and 1992, a major proponent of peace, particularly known for his opposition to the Viet Nam War.
 7. Brendan Behan, Irish poet, playwright, novelist (1923-1964), committed Irish Republican.

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