

WHERE INFLAMMATORY WORDS TAKE US

Pouring gasoline on a blazing fire can lead only to a conflagration, and from the statements of some so-called spokesmen for the "civil rights" movement, that seems to be the big idea in their heads.

There have been savage riots in recent days in Cleveland, Chicago, and New York. Negro teen-age gangs are prowling south side streets with rifles and engaging in indiscriminate shooting.

In this kind of climate, common sense would dictate that no effort be spared to restore calm and order. So what do we get from the mouthpieces of "protest"? Nothing but incitation and inflammatory statements.

Stokely Carmichael, the demagog who runs the Student Nonviolent Coordinating committee [which at its recent national convention adopted violence as its strategy], dropped into Chicago to say that his patented slogan—"black power"—was of no concern to whites. And that, he added, went for even so fawning a pursuer of minority bloc votes as Sen. Bobby Kennedy.

Carmichael assailed what he called the distortions of "the white press" in undertaking to define "black power." "The white press," he said, "should not attempt to define the term. It is a term for the black people only." As Sen. Kennedy isn't black, he was, in Carmichael's estimate, "presumptuous" when he attempted a definition.

To him, riots here and in other major cities were rebellions by exploited Negroes. "These were not extremist groups or lunatic fringes," he said, "but oppressed people reacting to the white extremists who have been exploiting the Negroes." Who is supposed to be exploiting them was not stated, but Carmichael did not seem to know or care that Negroes have the same responsibilities as all citizens. They are not licensed to riot.

A Cleveland black nationalist who led the riots there openly expressed a "hatred" for the white man and predicted "riots next week, next month, next year." Harlell Jones, who police say runs a school for fire bombers, remarked after testifying before a grand jury, "I have a gun. I don't trust any white man. The grand jury investigation was brought about by a lot of scared white people."

When the Rev. Martin Luther King said that Chicago invited rioting by ignoring and downgrading the "nonviolent" civil rights movement, he engaged in his usual prattle about the "white power structure" and "power elite." Riots, he said, helped whites relieve their guilt feelings because the Negroes can be blamed for lawlessness. As one who has contended that "unjust laws" may be broken with impunity, King, as Mayor Daley has remarked, has made his own contribution to incendiarism. But he does not hold himself at fault: it's all the blame of the "power structure."

When Sen. Frank Lausche of Ohio said here the other day that the riots in major cities were not spontaneous outbreaks but part of a national conspiracy, centrally managed to keep turmoil growing, he was voicing an apparent truth. The words of the "civil rights" agitators show that they don't want harmonious race relations, but violence and civil insurrection. And that remains true even if inflammatory doctrines are preached in the name of "nonviolence."