



WORKS

to be elected to Congress from New York, issued into the Congressional Record an extension of remarks entitled *Anatomy of a Riot*.

In it, he argued that the recent series of events was caused by a deep set anger in the black community stemming from historical deprivations they have suffered at the hands of a largely callous and indifferent White society.

This explanation was given in tandem with a sharp disavowal of the riots and praise of President Johnson for condemning the inexcusable outbreak of violence. The underlying cause for Powell is not the racial structures of power per se, but the White leadership that has soundly and repeatedly rejected the efforts of Black people to participate fully in the running of the total community. So while he clocked Watts as a sociological detonation of unbelievable proportions, he also assailed it as an orgy of purposeless annihilation that vexed his American identity. In part, Powell was upset that Black residents in Los Angeles had given up the moral high ground that was earned in the early 1960s by the non-violence of the civil rights movement.

In the same move, he also invokes the state as the organ and channel of change where state reforms were meant to mobilise Black populations pursuing the Democratic promise of inclusion. As such, Powell too obfuscates the central antagonism of White sovereign will and Black liberation as he ushers the uprising through the narthex of race relations, often illustrated through a cycle of contact, conflict, accommodation, and assimilation. Powell is quite in step with the larger arguments and proposed solutions garnered in the various state and federal commissions from McCone to Kerner both commissions resolutely call for improving Black living conditions, access to education, and the relations between the police and the Black community, categories understood as the underlying causes for the urban unrest.

For the state the Black ghetto that houses the Black family was both the reason and the evidence for the spiral of failure.

State solutions, explicitly proposed through housing development and urban renewal or implicitly issued by the fiat of political derision, meant to adjudicate the alleged causes of the Watts Uprising as a matter of propriety and the proprietary. A variegated conglomerate of state actors, taking the order of society for granted, they are resolved in its maintenance as they propagate the paradigmatic language of race relations and its assumed logic of assimilatory objective. As Powell's ascriptions to the proper governmental channels prohibit the surfacing of alternative ways of doing that unsettle the fabled national promise of full citizenship, property

