

--the way the ball bounces:



## ***Someone Better Learn to Speak The Language of the New Negro***

by jackie robinson-

We are unequivocally opposed to looting under the pretense of participating in violent protest.

We are unequivocally opposed to violent protest.

We are as unequivocally against black hatred as we are against white hatred.

But—and that is a terribly big but—we refuse to be silent when the terrible and destructive action of hoodlums and exploiters and hate-crazed saboteurs is used as an argument that the Negro does not know how to wear the new clothes of freedom which are finally being offered him to cover the nakedness in which he has been shivering for three hundred years.

Much is being made of the fact that the outbreak in Los Angeles occurred virtually simultaneously with the passing of the voting rights bill. This coincidence, if coincidence it was, furnished grist for the propaganda mills of the Faubuses and the Wallaces. But, for intelligent and reasoning people, this coincidence does not mean that the Negro is being given too much. In fact, there may be some merit in the assumption that the very irony of the necessity to pass such a bill after so long an era of denial is sufficient to arouse the wrath of many Negro people.

We are not condoning the method in which this wrath was expressed on the West Coast in recent days.

The massive police power invoked to quell the lawlessness which took place was necessary.

Yet, the past use of police power in that city—as in many other cities—has been abuse of power where the Negro has been concerned. If rioting is to be prevented in the future, Mayor Yorty and Governor Brown and Chief Parker (preferably a new police chief) will have to face that fact.

There are other facts which must be faced—not only in ravaged California but all throughout the land.

There is the fact that the civil rights leadership may no longer be regarded as the magic passport to insure racial peace between black and white in America. The grass roots Negro in many communities, the individual we call the man on the street is no longer excited or soothed because Mr. Big Negro Leader is welcomed to City Hall. He is no longer excited about a few big jobs being passed around.

Because the law of the land took so long to heed Roy Wilkins and Thurgood Marshall in their suit for justice, because the rulers of the land took so long to

endorse the non-violent tactics of Martin Luther King; because industry took so long to understand the common-sense advice of Lester Granger and Whitney Young; because of all this—a new Negro is striding the land. He is unafraid to die. He is intolerant of the virtues of patience. He sees massive forces being sent to Vietnam by a Government which cries that it cannot protect black and white patriots who journey South on missions of democracy. He is not—in the main—an advocate of offensive violence like that which took place in Los Angeles. But he loves the Deacons for Justice who don't slap first, nor will they turn the other cheek.

Someone — many someones—better learn how to speak the language of this new Negro. The power structures of the cities and the states and the Federal Government better get the message which burns in the hearts of this new Negro. The civil rights leadership will have to learn how to communicate with him better—and they can start by learning how to communicate with each other better.

It is no time for business as usual. For, business as usual can have but one effect—to make the Los Angeles bloodbath look as anemic as an Easter Lily.