



Youngsters peering through the partly opened gate of a looted store on Broadway in Brooklyn's Bushwick section

## A Glimpse at Bushwick's Broadway After the Looting

By DAVID F. WHITE

"My God! My God!" said Maria De Jesus, standing in front of a string of stores emptied by looters and ravaged by fires along Broadway in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. "This is awful. What will we do now?"

The smell of burned timbers hung in the air yesterday as the people who live in the area tried to figure out how to begin again after 24 hours of darkness and vandalism that ended around 11 P.M. Thursday.

Heavy patrolling by helmeted policemen continued along Broadway, and numerous officers said looting had sporadically continued through the back ends of ravaged stores.

Since the blackout began, the police reported, about 220 had been arrested and about 20 policemen had been injured in the area covered by the 83d Precinct in Bushwick and the 90th Precinct in Williamsburgh.

### Some Store Owners Did Not Return

Juan Melendez, 27, strolled down Broadway, returning from a vacation in Puerto Rico to a neighborhood in which he had lived, but now barely recognized. When he got to the charred remains of Miguel's Furniture, a furniture and appliance store, at 1213 Broadway, he stopped short and gazed for several minutes into the store.

"I bought my TV here just before I

went on vacation," he said. "It's terrible. I think I want to go back to Puerto Rico."

Many shopowners failed even to return to their stores yesterday, but Samuel Rosenblum, co-owner of John and Al's Sports, where 20 guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition had been stolen the day before, was looking forward to going home after a 36-hour vigil in his store at 927 Broadway.

Guarding his store through most of the blackout, Mr. Rosenblum received a delivery of pork chops and steak for dinner at 6:30 Thursday evening, and later slept four hours on his counter. "When you're tired enough you sleep anywhere," he said, looking grim and exhausted.

The sound of hammering had replaced the wail of police sirens at Mr. Rosenblum's store, but up the avenue at the home of Rose Stevens, a 67-year-old widow, the sound of weeping had taken over.

After spending the night alone in her \$57-a-month apartment over a burned-out meat market at 1235 Broadway, she spent the day wandering in search of a new home.

### 'No Place to Go'

"I wish I died," she said, tears spilling from her eyes, already swollen from crying. "I'm almost 70 years old and I have no place to go."

Later, Mayor Beame, touring the area, heard Mrs. Stevens' story and ord-

ered his aides do something for her. Officials of the city's Department of Relocation and Management Services came by, but Mrs. Stevens' fate remained unresolved as they could only place her in emergency quarters and could do nothing about making her possessions secure.

### Some Cite Frustration

To many walking along Broadway, past store mannequins sprawled like bodies of war victims in the street and piles of glistening glass, the events of the preceding 24 hours were a mystery.

But, to others, the logic of the events was clear. It had to do with along-smoldering frustration in the Bushwick section, they said, a frustration only ignited by the darkening of the lights.

"Most of the people involved were unemployed," said Aubrey Birch, program coordinator of the Bushwick Youth Services Bureau and the local Neighborhood Youth Corps supervisor. "A lot of people are looking for work here. The poor people felt it was their turn now."

"Broadway was run down long before this riot occurred," said Maurice Phillips, owner of Al-Bert's men's store on the corner of Howard Street, angry that it had taken a wave of looting to bring politicians and the news media to look at conditions in the neighborhood.

"This is the first time street sweepers have been seen on Broadway in three or four years," he said.