

# Koch Tours Areas Looted in 1977

Mayor Koch walked the littered streets of Brooklyn's Bushwick and Bedford-Stuyvesant sections yesterday, visiting the Broadway shopping area that was looted during the 1977 blackout, listening to the praise and complaints of merchants and shoppers and stressing his commitment to all of the five boroughs.

He used his walking tour as an opportunity to rebut recent criticism that his administration was primarily concerned with the well-being of midtown Manhattan.

"We cannot control the private sector," the Mayor said. "When people decide to build a huge office building in Manhattan, that's their money. But we can document overwhelmingly that we are putting our efforts into the four other boroughs and Manhattan north of 96th Street. We are committed to the revitalization of areas like this one."

Then the Mayor set off along the shopping strip, which is the dividing line between the two Brooklyn neighborhoods and one focus of efforts by the administration to revitalize community shopping areas.

As Mr. Koch walked on streets where glass crunched underfoot, he shook hands with bemused passers-by who complained about a lack of jobs and housing and stopped at stores that have stood on Broadway for decades. A real-estate dealer told him that the banks were not providing enough commercial financing, and the Mayor warned that legislation might be necessary to insure lending by commercial banks to businesses in poor areas.

In Everready Furniture, Al Fersko reminisced with Mr. Koch about the blackout.

"This place was completely demolished," he said. "They broke all the windows down here, and then they went upstairs and continued the operation on the second and third floors."

After some prodding from the Mayor, Mr. Fersko conceded that he was able to reopen with a \$40,000 loan from the Small Business Administration. The Mayor smiled and continued his walk.

Mindful of the tour President Carter is currently making, Mr. Koch added as he crossed the street, "This is better than going down the Mississippi."

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