The US Department of Labor Conducts a Post-Rebellion Study, Titled—The Detroit Riot of 1967: A Psychological, Social, and Economic Profile of 500 Arrestees

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Denise Levertov recalled an experiment the Pentagon conducted in 1957. Scientists locked pigs in cages and wrapped them in aluminum, then detonated a 37 kiloton device 690 feet above the animals to see what it would do to them.

She wrote, *It hurts to burn*, she wrote. She wrote, *even a match can make you scream*.

And so, the men in suits and ties from Department of Labor query the people in cages:

- **Kind of work you do.** Blue collar, 62%
- **Favorite Negro leader.** Martin Luther King, 36.4%
- **Riots are a good thing.** Affirmative, 17.1%
- **What caused this trouble.** Police action, 46%

Most inmates are eager to answer.

- 73% Earned $150 or less per week
- 48% Previously arrested
- 8.2% No education beyond 8th grade
- 21.4% Unemployed

Some are headed to jail for years. Most are eager to answer.

Some flames go unextinguished: fire in cages, fire in cities.

The men beyond the glass walls nod, grind their pencils to nubs.