

Student Handout
Oakland Museum of California
What's Going On? California and the Vietnam Era
Lesson Plan #2

1968: Year of Social Change and Turning Point in Vietnam and the U.S.

Oral History

Lois Lundberg #2

Lois Lundberg was a Republican volunteer in Orange County who actively campaigned for conservatives like Richard Nixon, Barry Goldwater, and Ronald Reagan.

Interviewer: ... the 1965 Watts riots?

Okay. In fairness, I think they covered it, uh, maybe a little more than it needed to. It became a little bit more national than it needed to be. But at the same time, if they were using it as a symbolic thing of what was to come, um, I would say that was probably the reason for it. But it was covered, uh, in an enormous, enormous fashion. The thing I felt sorry for there was that, uh, so many of the people that supposedly were in need of, of changes being made were the ones that were being wiped out. So if you look at it, you know, they were the victim in many instances where, uh, it was ... it was bad. I think the Watts riots were, um, were a bad thing. I hope we never see them again. And I do think we've got a little better grasp. I think it might have taught future times and generations not to ... not to take that method, which is what I would hope that we would learn.

Interviewer: Were you scared in Orange County when you saw the Watts riots happening? Or did you feel like they were far enough from you guys that you were okay?

Well, you ... you realized that it wasn't in your back door. But I think we all had a little fear that it could spread. Oh, yeah. I think there was no question about that. Any, any riot can. It doesn't take much to have it spread. But fear—I don't think so. I don't believe I've ever had any—much of a degree of fear as I probably have had since the 9/11 attack in New York. Because the, uh ... I don't know. I, I guess maybe—this might sound a really strange thing to say, but because I ... I feel all of our terror now is people—not Americans, not in our country, over which we have no control I guess I felt maybe years back that at least they were Americans and they did live here, and they wouldn't be as apt to burn down our ... our entire Los Angeles area, as ... but, see, where I feel now that they—where they'd love to get ...

