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CHAPTER THREE

MEMBERS AND DISCUSSION

TRUE AND FALSE

Outcome of AB 1974

Korean-Americans Strangled Again

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After America suffered the worst riot this century the Korean community suffered yet another tragic loss.

Assembly bill 1974 designed to make it easier to rebuild groceries, markets and convenience stores destroyed in the 1992 Los Angeles riots was defeated by a straight party-line vote in an assembly committee on Aug. 29. The Assembly Local Government Committee killed the measure for this legislative session.

Assemblyman Paul Horcher (R-Diamond Bar), sponsor of the reform bill, challenged the controversial L.A. City ordinance which effectively prevented the rebuilding of businesses destroyed in the riots.

Horcher's measure would have stopped the city from imposing the requirements of limited store hours, and requiring expensive private

markets and convenience stores were singled out for a special "Rebuilding Los Angeles" City ordinance and thus prevented from building.

To date, only 10 of the 175 Korean-American owned stores licensed to sell beer and wine or liquor have been able to reopen.

The failure of the city of Los Angeles and its Police Department to protect L.A. citizens, particularly small

business people such as Korean-American merchants, is a scar that will not soon be healed. The primary purpose of government is to protect and defend its citizens. Instead, the victims continue to go uncompensated and unappreciated. However, convicted thugs like Antione Miller are treated like heroes at rock concerts and are allowed to walk free and harm other people. Policemen who step over the line and abuse a citizen are jailed longer than murderers and a convicted felon who gets roughed up becomes a celebrity and a millionaire.

The Los Angeles riots initially was one of the great dark moments



Shawn Steel



Michelle Park Steel

"How do you like living in Seoul?" is the question that people ask me the most often. This is understandable since I lived in the United States for 25 years and have now lived in Seoul for just five years. Despite some of the discomforts such as the crowdedness, pollution, the cutting off of water for days, and etc., the answer to the question is "chong" (정). The Koreans who live here understand "chong" but second generation Koreans ask me "What does chong mean?" If you look it up in the Korean-English dictionary there are several definitions: feeling, emotion, love affection, sentiment, compassion, and sympathy. But then these definitions do not quite exactly fit the meaning of "chong."

From my personal experience, I am here "alone" with my husband and children since my parents live in Iowa City, Iowa. Here in Korean society where family is important, I often feel "alone." I know that when a woman marries she becomes a part of the husband's family, but growing up in the U.S.A. I was taught that each individual's family is important. Anyhow, I have seen time and time again where if the woman has a problem she calls up her mother on the telephone instantly or goes to her mother's house. As for me, because of the high cost of international calling, just going over to my mom's house or calling her is not feasible. I often am thankful to my husband for understanding me for most of my problems, but then there are problems that are not easily solved with him.

This is where I have learned that "chong" is an important part of society. When I first came here I was busy trying to learn the customs and way of life. Being able to get around in Seoul