

# Boycott continues

## Mayor, police fail to sway organizer

By **Richard Reyes Fruto**  
Korea Times

Black activists pressed on with the boycott of a Korean liquor store despite meeting with police who said the fatal shooting during an attempted holdup that sparked the protest was justifiable.

Mayor Tom Bradley had arranged the Aug. 28 meeting between boycott organizers and police detectives in an effort to cool racial tensions and end the three-month boycott of John's Liquor Store in south Los Angeles.

But the Rev. Edgar Boyd of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church said the boycott will continue until the store closes or owner Tae Sam Park is brought to trial.

Police met with black community leaders in Bradley's office and briefed them on the investigation of the shooting. The mayor had hoped that the briefing would convince organizers to call off the

boycott.

The shooting, as well as the killing of a black teen-ager at another Korean market in March, had sparked firebombings at the two stores, and others fear heightened black-Korean tensions could spawn more violence.

Black activists launched the boycott because they believe Park shot Lee Arthur Mitchell, 42, in cold blood. Police said Mitchell died when he tried to rob the store by saying he had a gun in his jacket.

Bradley and District Attorney Ira Reiner have blamed the boycott for the arson fires at the two Korean stores, saying that it creates an environment that encourages irresponsible people to commit violence.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that police Cmdr. Ron Banks said after the closed-door meeting that Bradley was "very firm and made it very clear" that he opposed the boycott.

The Korean American Race

Relations Emergency Fund, a group of 1.5 and second-generation Korean Americans, has raised \$18,000 to help Park through the boycott.

"Koreans are more than willing to come to the table and see what can be done about this," said KARRE member Bong Hwan Kim, whose group has tried to ease tensions with the black community.

"First we have to have a common understanding of what the problem is, then we have to talk about solving it. We haven't even gotten to step one yet because of the boycott," Kim said.

Organizers said the boycott is a peaceful way of expressing dissatisfaction with "non-resident" merchants who don't contribute to community programs and sometimes treat black customers rudely.

Ralph Sutton, a spokesman for the Brotherhood Crusade, called boycotts "a peaceful way of giving people who are outraged a way to express their rage."