

wrote a statement. "The jury heard the evidence and ren-dered its verdict," Clinton said. "Our system of justice requires respect for their verdict. At this moment our thoughts and

les to the White House, where President

Clinton watched the verdicts on TV, then

NATION

prayers should be with the families of the victims of this terrible crime. Earlier, Clinton was briefed on federal government plans to assist California authorities if the Simpson verdict triggered civil unrest. But the streets remained calm.

Outside the courthouse, most of the crowd of more than 1,000 people pressing police barricades cheered wildly as the innocent verdicts were transmitted on portable radios.

Some chanted, "Justice means acquittal, acquittal means justice" followed by shouts of "Free O.J.!"

Across town in Brentwood, where Ms. Simpson and Goldman were slain, the mood was less jubilant.

"You make a lot of money and I guess you can commit murder," said Elizabeth Condelli, who said she knew Ms. Simpson through their children's school.

The verdict was reported in blazing head-lines worldwide. Within hours, local newspapers had issued "Extra" editions featuring Simpson's smiling face and the words, "Not Guilty.



Defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. tried on a pair of gloves during closing arguments of the trial to remind the jury that the gloves Simpson tried on did not fit him. "Remember these words," Cochran said. "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit."

REACTIONS

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whole thing is a fiasco. I don't think it's an example of how the justice system really works." Conservative Coalition

President Alan Watson said he thought the verdict was a joke at first, since he did not ny way Simpson

David Brown, president of College Republicans, said the question of racial discrimination probably played a large role in the jury's decision to acquit Simpson.

'I think the physical evidence was enough to convict, but I think they were under pressure after what happened with Rodney King, Brown said. "You have to racial questions did not alone consider those things when acquit O.J. Simpson, the is-

gations of racism made against the Los Angeles Police Department during the trial were timely. "It's good that Americans

could see that that kind of thing goes on [in police departments]," he said.

Awareness Committee chair-

woman, said that although

Tina Harrison, Black

acquittal had less to do with race and more to with the sequestered jury going through months of testimony and arguments.

Associated Pre

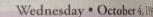
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pulled plug on television

"I believe that Mr. Simpson was acquitted the day two things happened: first, the day Judge [Lance] Ito made his decision to sequester the jury, and second, the day he lost control of the length of the tri-

al," Tomlinson said. Tomlinson said he believes



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