



United Press International

Alameda County Sheriff Frank Madigan, accused the government of sabotaging law enforcement by indicting deputies.

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Calif. Sheriff Hits Indicting of Deputies

OAKLAND, Calif., Feb. 3 (UPI) — The Alameda County sheriff charged today that the federal government allowed radicals to carry on five years of disturbance around the Berkeley campus of the University of California and then sabotaged law enforcement.

Sheriff Frank Madigan spoke out angrily against indictment of 12 of his deputies Monday in San Francisco Federal Court because of their handling of the "People's Park" rioting in Berkeley last May 15.

County supervisor Joseph Bort of Berkeley said outgoing U.S. Attorney Cecil Poole had set a "terrible example of law enforcement." Poole, whose resignation became effective

Monday, had been the nation's only Negro U.S. attorney.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to ask Poole's successor, James L. Browning Jr., to order a new grand jury hearing that "would be fair and without prejudice."

The Oakland City Employees Association and the County Deputy Sheriff's Association asked the county to provide defense funds for the 12 men.

The federal grand jury accused the deputies of violations of civil rights in the fatal shooting of a 26-year-old man, the blinding of another, and alleged beatings of prisoners following the disorders.

Madigan said Poole has "taken these deputies and thrown them to the wolves."

The presentations to the grand jury were handled not only by Poole but by two special Justice Department attorneys from Washington.

Madigan said for five years radicals had disrupted Berkeley and Oakland, stopping troop trains, besieging the Oakland induction center, and carrying on waves of demonstrations at the university campus.

Madigan did not deny that his men were aggressive in putting down the disorders.

"When we are called it's because the situation is out of

control," he said. "It's my duty to restore law and order."

Among the indicted deputies, two are accused of forcing a prisoner to place his head against a metal pole at the jail and then clubbing the opposite side of the pole. Three others are accused of "holding, beating, choking and striking" a prisoner while booking him.

Including the man slain and the man blinded, about 100 persons were injured by use of shotguns.

When the cases of those booked in the mass arrests came to court, a municipal judge dismissed all charges, ruling that the officers had not obtained sufficient identification to support the arrests.