

Calif. Deputies Are Indicted In 'Park' Case

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 2 (AP)—Ten sheriff's deputies and two former deputies were charged today in federal indictments with violating the civil rights of participants in the "People's Park" riots in Berkeley last May.

The indictments referred specifically to shotgun blasts fired at demonstrators and bystanders and to the treatment of the hundreds of persons arrested.

One man was killed and several others were wounded by shotgun fire. More than 100 others were injured in more than two weeks of violence that started when Berkeley militants seized a vacant lot belonging to the University of California and turned it into what they called "People's Park."

The occupants of the park, both nonstudents and students, were ousted by police but with their supporters stormed the lot May 15 in a wild battle.

Almost daily clashes with the National Guard, deputies and police were climaxed May 22 with the mass arrest of 482 persons.

Many of those arrested contended they were mistreated by deputies at the county's Santa Rita Prison Farm. All were eventually released on grounds that booking officers could not testify as arresting officers.

Monday's indictments charged 10 officers with conspiracy and imposing summary punishment in violation of civil rights acts that retiring U.S. Attorney Cecil Poole said are nearly a century old.

Eight deputies were accused of shooting demonstrators and bystanders with shotguns May 15.

The shootings were de-

scribed as done "with the intent of imposing summary punishment" and "violating the victims' right not to be deprived of liberty without due process of law."

In individual indictments, deputy Leonard N. Johnson and former deputy Lawrence L. Riche were accused of discharging shotguns in the direction of James Rector, who died of wounds, and of Alan Blanchard, who was blinded.

Rector and Blanchard were on a roof overlooking the scene of battle.

Riche also was accused of wounding three other persons, and deputy Louis M. Santucci with wounding one.

Others indicted were John A. Barker, Howard R. Davis, Michael J. Killian, David A. Lynch, Gary Nelson, Thomas F. O'Neill, Paul R. Otey, Holicice E. Turner and Alfred R. Vien.

All but Johnson and Santucci were listed in the conspiracy indictment.

Riche and Nelson resigned from the sheriff's department while misdemeanor assault charges were being prepared last summer.

In all, 10 deputies were suspended or otherwise disciplined by Sheriff Frank Madigan, who said at the time, "I concur there were cases of mistreatment at Santa Rita."

U.S. District Court Judge William T. Sweigert issued summonses for the indicted men, returnable Feb. 16.

Conviction for conspiracy carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine and summary punishment one year and a \$1,000 fine.

Before the indictments were returned, Sheriff Madigan said "it's not fair for the federal government to zero in" on the sheriff's department.