

FBI Will Probe Beating of Newsmen in Chicago

Clark Orders Inquiry as
24 Reporter Targets

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI will investigate the beating of newsmen by the Chicago police during civil disturbances in that convention city, it was announced Wednesday.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark ordered the federal inquiry after reports were received that since Sunday 24 newsmen in Chicago for the Democratic National Convention were subjected to unprovoked attacks by local police officers.

A Justice Department spokesman said the investigation would include inquiries into the alleged mistreatment of any citizens involved in demonstrations.

FBI CALLED IN

The FBI was called into the local situation under provisions contained in federal civil rights statutes.

Meanwhile, Rep. Bob Wilson, R-Calif., said in a statement he planned to propose legislation designed to protect newsmen covering national political conventions. Wilson is chairman of the Republican Congressional committee on campaigns.

Asked to reassess a forecast he made August 14 that he was

"confident" the Chicago convention can and will be held without significant civil disorders, the Attorney General would not comment.

Clark said at that time he expected "disturbances of a minor nature," but nothing more. He also described the Chicago police department as "one of the great police departments in the United States" and its chief, Supt. James B. Conlisk, as "one of the great chiefs of police of the United States."

PROBE WILL BE EXTENDED

It is expected the FBI probe will be all-encompassing—extended to state police, members of the Secret Service, FBI men themselves and other security forces inside and outside convention hall.

The Secret Service, responsible for the safety of the candidates and described by Clark as the "lead agency" for over-all security at the convention, was known to be conferring with Chicago police officials.

A Secret Service official pointed out Wednesday, however, that crowd handlers—sergeants-at-arms and the like—in convention hall, were not under the federal agency's direct supervision. Individual activities by local police also are taken independent of the Secret Service.