

Writers Express Horror, Dismay at Police Conduct

CHICAGO (AP)—Editorial writers and columnists for Chicago's daily newspapers expressed horror, dismay and a concern for the city's image Thursday as they commented on the conduct of police and city officials during disturbances that wracked the city during the Democratic National Convention.

The bloody confrontations between police and protesters were not so much the result of the ills of American society as the overeagerness of city officials to guarantee order during the convention, suggested the Chicago Daily News.

"A Mayor (Richard J.) Daley pathetically eager to make things 'nice' for a convention of particular personal importance to him indulged in such security over-kill that a great city was turned into a police city-state, and freedom of assembly and speech were snuffed out," the News said. "Some question is inevitably raised as to whether Mayor Daley, the renowned Democrat, has not lost touch with democracy with a small 'd.'"

MEASURES DEFENDED

The Chicago Tribune defended the elaborate security preparations ranging from barbed wire around the International Amphitheatre, where the Democrats were meeting, to Illinois National Guardsmen in the streets—and apologized on behalf of the city for any inconvenience caused to visitors.

"The precautions were taken because the city received many warnings from radical leftists, student groups, and black power zealots," the Tribune said. "They threatened to have a million or more demonstrators here for the purpose of disrupting the convention and the life of the city . . ."

"Chicago is the nation's leading convention city. It has been

host to thousands of peaceful, orderly meetings. The city regrets that it was necessary to mobilize the National Guard, federal troops, and many federal agents to keep order during the Democratic convention."

BRUTALITY NOTED

Jack Mabley, a columnist for Chicago's American, noted instances of police brutality he viewed Wednesday night, and added:

"It sickens me to write this because I am on the police's side, and I went out at 1 o'clock yesterday to write exactly what I saw and I was sure it would bring credit to the police."

"And 98 per cent of the men were great," Mabley said. "Man after man handled situa-

tions decently and firmly, responding like pros under provocation that was unbelievably vile. . . . The tragedy is that the police officials fell for the stupid trap of sweeping up innocent citizens."

Mabley wrote that he saw the police seize Jerry Rubin, a leader of the Yippies (Youth Party International), as Rubin walked along the sidewalk with a girl friend.

'POLICE STATE'

"I have heard Rubin speak, and he was obscene and revolting," Mabley said. "In America a man may be arrested for obscenity or revolution. But Rubin was grabbed off the street and rushed to jail for what he thinks. This is the way it is done

in Prague. This is what happens to candidates who finish second in Vietnam. This is not the beginning of the police state, it is the police state."

Columnist Norman Ross of the Daily News also drew an analogy between Chicago and Prague and the activities of youthful protesters in both cities during the past week.

"The easy thing to say is that these young people so intolerant of their elders care more about avoiding service in Vietnam than they do about the fate of their fellow youth in Czechoslovakia," Ross said of the Chicago demonstrators.

"But they are not necessarily cowards. Many may, in fact, suffer more at the hands of our

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helmeted, clubswinging police than they might in the service. Like their contemporaries in other countries, they are a political and feel alienated from the 'ins' who run society and disenchant with the alternatives offered by the 'outs.'"