

Daley Served Radicals' Cause

By Laurence Stern
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CHICAGO, Aug. 31—Richard J. Daley has earned himself a prominent niche in the pantheon of the American New Left.

For without the bellicose Mayor and his powder-blue-helmeted army the Battle of Chicago might have been little more than a political light and sound show on the edge of the major event here, the Democratic National Convention.

As it turned out, Mayor Daley transformed the be-in along Michigan Avenue into an act of martyrdom and holy confrontation.

News Analysis

"The whole world is watching, the whole world is watching," the kids chanted as Daley's cops bludgeoned their way through the ranks of demonstrators. And indeed the world did watch.

Five years ago Police Commissioner Eugene "Bill" Connor of Birmingham, legitimized the Negro revolution with cops, dogs and cattle prods.

Something similar happened in Chicago this week.

Not all Americans, to be sure, sympathized with the battered kids or even the

beaten newsmen. "Actually they didn't even have to beat those kids," reflected a Chicago cab driver, "Daley should have given them all castor oil."

But there is still a large segment of opinion in the Nation, especially among those critical of the Vietnam war and of Hubert Humphrey's candidacy, who will be further alienated by what happened on Chicago's streets.

Before the convention assembled there were expectations of as many as half a million demonstrators in downtown Chicago. As it turned out hardly more than

5000 gathered in Grant Park to "confront the warmakers."

It was a far smaller crowd than the one that gathered in Washington last fall to march on the Pentagon. By every measure the Chicago turnout had all the makings of a disappointing failure.

Mayor Daley saved it for the radicals. And his police went a long way toward "radicalizing" the thousands of young men and women who came here with the intention of working within the system as part of Sen. Eugene McCarthy's "kiddie corps."

The "McCarthy Kids"

With Chicago Clubbings

were the "liberals" of the dissenting movement, clearly distinguishable from the Yipple legions who denounced The System as well as the candidates obscenity by obscenity from the Grant Park loudspeakers.

But the Mayor and his police went a long way toward erasing the distinctions between the two groups. The police proved exactly what the radicals wanted to demonstrate by their confrontation: That the civil authority of Chicago was a malign tool of The System, whether in the amphitheatre or on the streets.

"Chicago's police have

created a force of white street revolutionaries," exulted Jerry Rubin, leader of the Youth International Party (Yippies). Rubin had not been able to unify the McCarthy kids with the hardened street guerrillas and radical young ideologues who have made the scene from Columbia to Berkeley. But Dick Daley did.

Even within the convention hall the stories and pictures of the violence outside had a strong impact. There was talk of nominating a New Hampshire delegate who had been manhandled by the guards and wide-

spread complaints of strong-armed police tactics within the amphitheater.

The black humorists of this convention were describing Chicago as Prague West and Mayor Daley's coliseum as "Stalag '68." And, unlike most conventions, the humor in Chicago this past week has been prevailingly black.

It was not only the kids who were radicalized by nightsticks. The delegates were angry and even the television superstars—Walter Cronkite, David Brinkley and Mike Wallace—were embittered. So were the hierarchs of the Chicago news-

paper establishment who met during convention week to protest the deliberate beating of newsmen by the police.

Today all the delegates have left and it is eerily quiet in Chicago. Cab service has been resumed and the telephone strike that has bedeviled communications here is almost over.

The turmoil of the past week seems almost like a hallucination. Mayor Daley has secured his City against the Armies of the Night. But what effect he has wrought on the Democratic Party's prospects this fall is still to be seen.