City Jammed With Elvis Fans Fox 8/12/78

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MEMPHIS (UPI)—A judge ordered more than 1,000 striking policemen back to work yesterday in this river city jammed with thosusands of Elvis Presley fans for the first anniversary of the singser's death.

An 8 p.m. curfew, however, remained in effect, sharply restricting the activities of an expected 100,-000 Elvis admirers.

Chancellor George Lewis issued the back-to-work order at the request of city officials. Union policemen walked off the job at midnight Thursday in a wage dispute, leaving shifts manned with about 300 nonunion personnel. Mayor Wyeth Chandler imposed a citywide curfew and called in the National

There was no immediate response from the union An aide to Chandler said the curfew would remain despite the order.

The curfew foreced the rescheduling of two major benefit concerts, curtailed the hours of a display of Presley memorabilia at the Cook Convention Center, and forced theaters showing Elvis movies to close sooner than planned.

Police Director E. Winslow Chapman said the strikers "deliberately sabotaged" at least 25 patrol cars after the walkout.

More than 500 National Guardsmen were called in, but Chandler said they would remain at a local armory until needed.

All motel rooms were booked within a two-mile radius of Graceland, where Presley is buried in the

family cemetery, and hotels in other parts of the city were filling rapidly.

Officials, told by firefighters they would not cross the police picket lines thrown up at fire stations, ordered fire trucks parked on the streets outside the station so firemen could man them without driving across the picket lines.

"We don't know how the strike is going to affect all this," said Margaret Compton of the city's convention and visitors bureau. But fans interviewed at Graceland yesterday said it would take more than a strike to keep them away.

"A police strike is not going to make a bit of difference to Elvis fans," said Sterling Moore, who made the journey from Oklahoma City to Graceland. "They have been through thick and thin with him."

"We've come to see Elvis, not the police," said Nell Stewart of Somerville.

In clamping an 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew on the city, beginning last night, Chandler said, "We are simply not able to provide as much protection as we would like."

The curfew was the city's second in little more than a month. Chandler imposed a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew in early July during a fire fighters' strike which resulted in more than 300 fires across the city.

Police reported no major problems despite working with a skeleton crew. "We look like we are in real good shape right now. We are keeping our toes crossed," said Police Lt. Jim Myers.