



By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post  
**Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson testifies on protests.**

# Protesters' Threat To Monument Cited

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Federal officials told Congress yesterday that 40 park policemen may have saved the Washington Monument from damage by 50,000 persons attending a Monument grounds rock concert following the huge anti-war march there April 24.

Russell Dickenson, superintendent of the National Capital Parks, told the House Internal Security Committee that the policemen remained inside the base of the Monument until 2:30 a.m. April 25 to "protect the Monument itself."

"Otherwise," Dickenson testified, "we might not have had the Washington Monument."

His serious concern for the safety of the 555-foot, 81,120-ton Monument, which was completed in 1884, was the principal piece of new information to come out of yesterday's hearing.

Washington Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson, another witness at the hearing, testified that he does not think any additional legislation, suggested by some Committee members, is necessary to help police cope with future demonstrations.

It is the first of several hearings, Committee Chairman Richard D. Ichord (D-Mo.) said, aimed at portraying the involvement of Trotskyites and other Communists in the planning and leadership of the recent antiwar activities in Washington.

While yesterday's testimony consisted principally of a recitation of the past month's events and a cataloguing of the vandalism committed, Ichord promised startling disclosures today and Thursday, some of them from bank records of the two principal groups organizing the

protests, the National Peace Action Coalition and the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice.

Ichord said that some information would surprise even Committee member John G. Schmitz (R-Calif.), a member of the John Burch Society who has already made clear his disbelief of the patriotism of the antiwar group leaders.

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## SECURITY, From A1

Dickenson testified that the 40-man police contingent initially took refuge in the Washington Monument around 5 p.m. on April 24 after being "stoned and bottled" following an incident in which park police attempted to arrest two persons for ripping American flags off some of the 50 flag-staffs that circle the Monument.

At the time, the overflow of the large rock concert audience surrounding the Sylvan Theater stage created a tremendous crush of people around the base of the Monument. Vandals in the youthful crowd tore down the flags and removed the wood backs from nearby benches to use in bonfires.

In testimony yesterday, Dickenson said he feared that vandals would push their way inside the Monument and seriously damaged it.

Dickenson did not explain how he thought the Monument might be damaged, and he was not pressed by the Committee for details.

Using military parlance, he told the Committee that the 40 policemen would have been far too few to come outside and "perform an interperimeter defense around the Monument" to protect it from the crowd.

He added that a "major ma-

neuver and confrontation" would have been necessary to bring in other policemen (who purposely had stayed away from the rock concert to avoid incidents) and relieve the 40 men.

Dickenson agreed with Rep. John M. Ashbrook (R-Ohio) yesterday that it would be correct to describe the 40 policemen as having been "under siege."

That judgment by Dickenson, and his account of the policemen going inside the Monument to take refuge from the crowd, differed from statements by the police on the scene April 24.

When asked by reporters that day about the antiwar protesters' claims that they had "trapped" the policemen inside the Monument, Park Police Lt. D. C. McPherson said they were not trapped. He said the policemen were stationed inside as a routine precaution earlier in the afternoon.

After listening to Dickenson and seeing him hold up a Vietcong flag and another red and white banner that had been fasten to a Monument flagpole, Schmitz suggested that the Monument grounds might be considered to have been "enemy territory on the night of April 24 to 25.

Earlier, Dickenson and Alfred Beye, deputy park police chief, said that the night's activities had resulted in \$100,000 worth of property damage, including \$18,000 in damage to equipment in the Sylvan Theater where the rock concert was held, \$14,000 worth of damage to the benches broken up for firewood, and \$28,000 for truck-mounted sanitary facilities that were set afire early on April 25. Dickenson said the balance of the cost is to replace grass in areas trampled by the crowd.

In addition, slogans and obscenities spray-painted onto the Monument had to be sandblasted off, and minor damage was done to the ornamental cherry trees, some of whose branches were used for firewood, the official said.

Ichord reacted to the list of damage with apparent shock. "I read press reports that the

city was left immaculate," he said.

Later he allowed that he had seen some press references to the spray-painting of slogans and the destruction of the benches, but not to the igniting of the sanitary facilities, which he called a "mobile rest home."

In asking Dickenson what time that blaze was touched off, Ichord suggested that perhaps it had begun "when the press had gone home."

In referring to the combined estimates of Dickenson and Jerry V. Wilson, metropolitan police chief, that the total cost of police services during the demonstration approached \$3.5 million, Ashbrook noted that one of the self-declared aims of the demonstrators was to "raise the cost to the government of militarism and irresponsibility" to an unacceptable level.

Ashbrook also asked Wilson if it were true, as a demonstrators' publication had claimed, that lawyer Philip Hirschkop, who represented several of the demonstration leaders, had actually been given a D.C. government vehicle that was kept in communication with the city government command center by radio.

Wilson said he believed this was true, adding that he had also issued Hirschkop a police pass that would allow him to go through police lines.

"I would have to say that my experience, on balance, with Mr. Hirschkop, has been favorable," Wilson added. "... On balance, he has been more

useful to the government than not." Wilson said later that he meant Hirschkop had been useful as a "line of communication."

Ashbrook then commented that Kirschkop's car may, after all, have been "the only piece of government property that was safe" during the demonstrations.

Ichord asked both Dickenson and Wilson what legislation, if any, they thought would help in handling future demonstrations. Dickenson suggested laws that would forbid camping on national capital parklands and nighttime demonstration activity. He also suggested a law requiring groups that might cause damage to "post bond high" enough to cover the cost of repairs.

Wilson, however, said he does not think any new legislation is necessary. Spelling out police arrest procedures by statute, for instance, he said, would only rob police officials of the flexibility of changing such procedures to meet new problems.

Wilson also said he does not think expanded detention facilities should be built. That kind of preparation, he testified, has a way of becoming a "self-fulfilling prophecy."

Ichord noted that a congressionally authorized executive order had made possible the efficient rounding up of 112,000 U.S. citizens of Japanese descent at the beginning of World War II.

Wilson replied, "that's for the Congress to decide. I personally wouldn't recommend it."

## Court Dismisses Most Of 2,000 Protest Cases

The overwhelming majority of the first 2,000 Mayday anti-war demonstrator cases processed through Superior Court were thrown out, official Court figures show.

The figures, made public yesterday by Arnold M. Malech, Court executive officer, showed that only one demonstrator was found guilty after a trial in the disposition of the initial 2,000 cases.

By contrast, a large majority of the demonstrators were cleared of the disorderly conduct charges against them without a hearing.

According to the statistics, charges were dismissed in 712 cases while the D.C. Corporation Counsel's Office did not file charges in 420 other cases and decided not to prosecute in another 131 cases. In addition, 55 demonstrators who stood trial were acquitted.

Although court records show that 588 persons were found guilty, almost all of these, a total of 584, entered pleas of *nolo contendere* (no contest). Three others pleaded guilty.

Of these, 347 were released on the basis on time spent in jail while waiting trial; 318 were given suspended sentences and 22 were given fines. Another 98 chose to forfeit collateral rather than come to court.

With disposition of these cases, which total 1,999, the Court still has 5,200 demonstrator cases pending, according to Malech's report.

About 2,700 other demonstrators have posted collateral — an amount paid to insure court appearance — and are expected to stand trial. No court papers have been filed yet in their cases.

More than 12,000 people were arrested during the Mayday demonstrations here. Most of those not scheduled in court initially forfeited collateral.

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The American Civil Liberties Union said yesterday that in two days it had received 440 personal or telephone responses to its call for documentation of "illegal arrests and detention" during the Mayday war protests.

Of these, 78 people had already completed affidavits, it said.