

CITY OF CHICAGO CHICAGO DEMONSTRATIONS

Halfway through the first day of the Mayday subway demonstrations, the Administration is finding it difficult to handle the situation. The Mayor's office is reported to be in a state of confusion, and the police are struggling to maintain order. The demonstrators are demanding the release of the Chicago Seven and the end of the Vietnam War. The city government is expected to announce a plan to handle the protests in the coming days.

WAVES FROM AI

The rejection of the charges against the Chicago Seven has been a major victory for the demonstrators. The FBI's attempt to prosecute the protesters has failed, and the charges have been dropped. This is a significant blow to the government's efforts to silence the anti-war movement. The demonstrators are now demanding the release of the Chicago Seven and the end of the Vietnam War. The city government is expected to announce a plan to handle the protests in the coming days.

pants and other sources within the government and among the protesters, this is the sequence of events surrounding the government offer of an early settlement:

Hirschkop was summoned by telephone to the command center at about 2 p.m. that Monday to meet with city officials.

By that time, the city streets had been largely cleared of demonstrators through mass arrests and suspension of the standard police field arrest forms.

District officials had realized that detention facilities were inadequate for the numbers in custody and were facing the likelihood of challenge to their procedures from civil liberties groups.

Hirschkop was met at the command center by Caplan, who presented the compromise offer in the hallway. Mayor Walter E. Washington and Deputy Mayor Graham Watt were nearby.

Although there was dispute within the Justice Department, sources have revealed that the Internal Security Division was pressing for felony charges against everyone arrested for allegedly obstructing traffic.

Neither Caplan nor Hirschkop will discuss the particulars of their conversation.

But Caplan concedes that "discussions took place on the processing of cases, as they always do." Hirschkop agrees that "there was discussion with regard to disposition of the Mayday charges."

A Justice Department spokesman said yesterday that he had no information about any such offer.

Other sources, however, indicate that the following points were included in the proposed settlement:

- Those who had been arrested without field arrest forms and photographs would be released at once, and others would be able to go free on payment of collateral of \$10.

- Mayday leaders would appeal to their followers to leave the city and would assist with transportation.

- There would be no felony indictments involving serious criminal penalties upon conviction.

Police would not search those in custody for drugs, an action that could put the ar-

restees in jeopardy of prosecution on additional charges.

Hirschkop was reportedly told that he must come back with an answer from PCPJ and his Mayday clients within a few hours.

He transmitted the government's offer to a meeting of about six protest leaders following their afternoon press conference at a hotel on Rhode Island Avenue NW, where Davis acknowledged that "we failed this morning to stop the U. S. government."

As Davis remembers the proposal, "I got the feeling that (what they were saying was) if I went before the press again and claimed success and urged everyone to go home . . . a lot of hardship would be avoided."

Another participant at the meeting puts it this way: "They would not go ahead with prosecuting the leaders if we would call it quits."

Both said that they assumed at the time that the offer had the blessings of the Justice Department.

Davis explained last week that the assembled organizers "treated it almost as a joke. It was such a preposterous idea. We couldn't believe that someone would do that."

"It was clearly nothing that we were going to treat seriously," he said.

Other sources said the offer was considered especially preposterous, because the Mayday and PCPJ leaders had no capacity to control or direct the exact plans of the thousands of demonstrators who had come to Washington from distant states.

One legal observer suggested that the offer "seems to have assumed a command structure that just wasn't there."

Hirschkop never got back in touch with Caplan about the proposed settlement.

In Hirschkop's view, the eventual felony charges against Davis, John Froines, Abbie Hoffman and Bradford Lyttle "all grew out of (Mayday's) failure to respond to the negotiations."

Caplan declines comment on that point, as do other government officials responsible for setting policy during the demonstrations.

It was suggested by other sources, however, that the government felt at the time that it was "negotiating from strength" with demonstrators whose ranks had been substantially diminished by the Monday morning arrests.

Others said it was only another form of the standard "plea bargaining" process which occurs everyday.

Only a few hours later, Chief Judge Harold H. Greene of D.C. Superior Court ordered police and military officials into court to explain their procedures.

His was the first of a long series of rulings which ultimately resulted in the release of most of the prisoners — without any concession from the other side.