

Post 4/30/71

Mayday Arrests Explained

Washington Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson said last night that if only 1,000 demonstrators had broken the law during the Mayday demonstrations here, they would have been arrested under normal processes.

Appearing on a television interview program, Wilson said that the police had a fairly good grasp that 1,000 or 10,000 demonstrators were in the city last night.

"But we really did not expect that there would be that many who would purposely violate the law in terms of trying to take the city down," Wilson said.

Wilson said that the police could have easily handled 1,000 demonstrators under normal processes, but they passed them out of the street without badly disrupting the city.

On May 3, the peak day of

the demonstrations, Wilson in general than I did in '67 suspended use of the police and '69.

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