

Thousands at Justice Dept. Gassed in Radicals' Assault

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Police used tear gas to disperse a crowd of several thousand antiwar protesters at the Justice Department yesterday after militants broke windows and threw what appeared to be a paint bomb against the building.

The tear gas sent hundreds running away, but a hard core of about 1,000 militants remained to taunt police and threaten new assaults. Several thousand fled up 12th Street into the shopping district.

Washington Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson threw one of the first tear gas canisters and then ordered his men to disperse the crowd with "whatever means necessary."

Middle-aged couples and crying young children were in the crowd that fled the tear gas busts. They had come to Justice from the huge crowd that gathered at the Washington Monument to protest the war.

Leading the throng converging at 10th Street and Constitution Avenue were radicals carrying Vietcong flags and a giant papier-mache mask of Attorney General John N. Mitchell. They shouted "Stop the

Trial" in protest of the Chicago conspiracy trial of seven men accused of planning to start a riot at the Democratic National Convention last year.

At first, following the rules of their parade permit, the thousands marched once around the Justice Department. Then one contingent halted the march at the ornate Constitution Avenue entrance and they all massed outside shouting slogans. Someone ran up a Vietcong flag on a Justice Department pole.

About eight windows in the Justice building were broken by thrown stones. Someone threw a red paint bomb at the building and

smoke rose up the wall. As the front-rankers in the mass began banging on the large iron entrance-way doors, a canister of tear gas was thrown.

There was a brief scuffle between police and demonstrators at the 9th Street and Constitution Avenue intersection and many more canisters were thrown.

Part of the crowd fled up 10th Street, but was forced back to Constitution by a police cordon. Then the police moved the bulk of the crowd east on Constitution, up to Pennsylvania, and into downtown shopping streets where some windows were broken.

See DEM'STRATE, A17, Col. 8

Police Rout Protesters at Justice Dept.

DEMONSTRATE, From A1

Attorney General Mitchell and his deputy, Richard G. Kleindienst, watched from their fifth floor suite of offices as the clash occurred.

There appeared to be about 10,000 in the throng, but the vast majority had no part in instigating the melee.

About 800 federal troops were stationed inside the Justice Department building, along with FBI agents and 50 members of the District's civil defense unit. The rally there had been arranged by the Yippies, who obtained a permit for a three-hour demonstration.

Many demonstrators, after the first round of tear gassing, fled into Karn's Department Store for handkerchiefs to protect their faces. A man eventually appeared in the store with a pump shotgun over his shoulder and ordered everyone out.

As the crowd was being swept west on Constitution, a number of militants tried to halt the retreat and push back for a confrontation with police. They were restrained by a human wall of parade marshals who pushed them back to avert an encounter.

The largest throng of retreating demonstrators fled up 12th Street and into the shopping area. Still followed by clouds of drifting tear gas, they continued chanting, "Free Bobby Seale." Seale is under indictment in the Chicago conspiracy case. Young members of the crowd broke windows in shops and cars.

At 12th and F Streets, some of the radicals tried to organize the retreating, leaderless mass, telling them to stand fast and face the police. But most continued away from the scene of the tear gassing.

For an hour or more, the

police and demonstrators chased each other through the shopping district, occasionally engaging in street corner confrontations that ended with the exploding of tear gas canisters.

Many shoppers, coming out of still-open stores along F Street NW, suddenly found themselves in the midst of milling throngs, surrounded by the CS gas. Women carrying shopping bags were sometimes forced to run from the gas.

The police grouped in lines the width of each street to sweep up and down 12th Street, E Street, and 14th Street NW, using tear gas only when massed youths did not move out of their path. No police batons were seen being used.

The police responded by tossing several tear gas canisters into the group, which stood on the edge of the monument grounds on the southwest corner of the in-

tersection of 15th Street and Constitution Avenue NW.

In the brisk breeze, the gas blew quickly up 15th Street, where it inundated people trying to go south on 15th toward the monument grounds to reach buses they had come in. The buses were parked to the west of the monument.

In the confusion, these people, including many women and children, did not know where to turn to reach their buses. After about half an hour, and the explosion of more tear gas canisters at 15th and Constitution, some policemen and remaining Mobilization marshals began telling people to go back to K Street and over to 18th Street to reach their buses.

After the mass of those people had passed 14th and Pennsylvania Avenue, where police and national guardsmen were massed to cut off access to the White House, tear gas was used to disperse stragglers at 14th and Pennsylvania.

Some youths continued to try to rally the forces of more militant demonstrators and urged them to regroup on the monument grounds. By 6 p.m., a large group had gathered there and began setting trash cans on fire.

The demonstrators driven west from the monument grounds along Constitution Avenue headed past government buildings and up 20th Street NW. With no police in that area, some of the youths broke several windows along 20th Street until they reached Dupont Circle.

Earlier, during the melees in the shopping district, windows were broken at Beyda's clothing store at 12th and E Streets NW and the American Savings and Loan Association on 14th Street near Pennsylvania Avenue.