

SAN JOSE RIOTING CALLED 'HOAX' AND 'SMEAR'

Special to The Examiner

SAN JOSE — Police Chief Ray Blackmore said today reports of violence at President Nixon's visit last Thursday were exaggerated and "smeared" his department and students.

Blackmore told newsmen:

"A few rocks were thrown. There was a verbal attack. That was the so-called violence."

San Jose State College student leaders said at a news conference they agreed with Blackmore's assessment and accused President Nixon of contriving the confrontation to win votes.

Meanwhile, Santa Clara County labor leaders charged today that the demonstration against President Nixon here last week was a "hoax" perpetrated by Nixon himself and the other Republican leaders who were with him.

Louis Bosco, president of the Santa Clara Central Labor Council, told a press conference today, "There was a conspiracy. There was a conspiracy at the highest level, involving the President, the Vice President, Senator Murphy and the Governor of California."

No Proof Offered

He offered no proof that either a "hoax" or a "conspiracy" had taken place, however.

Bosco said that all labor leaders of Santa Clara County — including Teamsters, Building Trades Council, United Auto Workers and the International Association of Machinists — were joining

together to protest the alleged "hoax."

Bosco said that police herded students to the building exit from which Nixon and his party were to emerge.

"If they were really afraid that these people were a threat to the President, they would not have brought them to that door," said Bosco. "They had to be there to complete their orchestration."

Bosco said he was at the scene and he did not see any rocks thrown. He said he talked to others who were there and the heaviest thing they saw was a wadded up paper cup.

'Attempt To Incite'

Henry Wagner, an unemployed San Jose engineer, at the press conference, said he thought President Nixon's action in jumping on top of his car and flashing a peace sign at the crowd was "an attempt to incite the students to riot."

State Senator Alfred E. Alquist, meanwhile, called for a grand jury investigation of the violence in his home city of San Jose.

Alquist, Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, sent Santa Clara County Grand Jury Foreman Ernest Renzel a telegram yesterday saying "many suspicious circumstances, disturbing rumors and unanswered questions surrounding the incident must be clarified."

"When hundreds of police and Secret Service agents allow a handful of juvenile delinquents to create an international incident, we need to find out why" Alquist said.

The state senator said the pelting of the President's car with rocks, eggs and bottles resulted, in part, from a "shocking absence of normal security precautions."

"San Jose police have a fine reputation and a record of high competence in crowd control," noted Alquist. "It's difficult to understand why they allowed the President's safety to be jeopardized in this manner."

Alquist denied that his request for a grand jury investigation was motivated politically. He said such an investigation would take weeks or months "and could have no effect on tomorrow's election, one way or another."

Michael Grimes and David Jessup, two student leaders at San Francisco State, called a press conference

this morning to demand the organization of a student fact-finding commission to investigate "possible connections and shared interest between left-oriented violence and efforts of conservative and rightist politicians to gain public office."

Grimes said that some conservative politicians, far from trying to end violence, "are attempting to provoke and exploit unrest as springboard for public office."