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Threat of An Epidemic At D.C. Jail

Washington

Controversy mounted in Washington yesterday over procedures used by police and other city officials in arresting, detaining and processing persons during the anti-war demonstrations.

At a press conference called by the District of Columbia Public Health Association, Dr. Albert Brayerman of D. C. General Hospital, who said he has been treating arrested persons at the D. C. jail since Monday, told a press conference that "there is the potential of a scarlet fever epidemic."

Another doctor said almost all the prisoners have colds and that at least one case of highly contagious salmonella diarrhea had been identified.

ACLU

Joined by the American Civil Liberties Union, a former federal prosecutor called for empaneling of a special grand jury to consider whether the constitutional rights of those arrested had been violated.

Chief Judge David L. Bazelon of the U.S. Court of Appeals, acting as chairman of the judicial conference of the District of Columbia, inaugurated a study of whether a three-year-old program for mass arrests during civil disturbances had been followed.

Last night, more than 1000

persons arrested Tuesday were still being held awaiting court action.

Complaints about court congestion and delays, as well as about sanitary and health conditions in emergency detention facilities, continued to pour in.

RESPONSE

In the Nixon administration's first formal response to criticism of the mass arrest procedure, an assistant attorney general told a North Carolina audience that "the circumstances were extraordinary" Monday, justifying suspension of normal law enforcement standards.

The Justice Department, meanwhile, acknowledged its

major role in law enforcement during the demonstrations but insisted that the District of Columbia's police chief, Jerry V. Wilson, made the main decisions on such things as arrests.

Wilson later confirmed this, and took responsibility for the decision to suspend normal arrest procedures.

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