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MITCHELL URGES ALL POLICE COPY CAPITAL'S TACTICS

Calls 'Decisive Opposition to Mob Force' an Example for Rest of Nation

By Fred P. Graham
Special to [NYTimes]

Washington, May 10 - Attorney General John N. Mitchell urged the police in other cities today to copy the "decisive" tactics, which included mass arrests, used by the Washington Police Department to break up the Mayday demonstrations last week.

"I hope that Washington's decisive opposition to mob force will set an example for other communities,"

Mr. Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell said in a strongly worded defense of the police tactics used here.

If other communities do the same, he added, "we will see an end to the extremist practice of running roughshod over the rights of others."

Mr. Mitchell said that his sentiments "are fully shared by the President of the United States."

He compared the Mayday Tribe demonstrators to Hitler's brown shirts and said that their campaign to force the Government to end the war through disruptive demonstrations had reached its "high tide."

No Brutality Found

This was because "the demonstrators didn't get away with it," and were stopped by means that did not give them an opportunity to make charges of police brutality, Mr. Mitchell said.

He said that no shot had been fired by the police and that no serious injuries had resulted from police activities, but that 34 policemen had been hurt.

In a speech to the annual meeting of the California Peace Officers' Association in San Francisco, Mr. Mitchell told his audience of sheriffs' deputies, highway patrolmen and policemen that the Washington police had "no alternative" but to make the mass arrests.

Rejects Kennedy View

"Nothing else could have been done unless the police were to let the mob rule the city," he said. The text of the strongly worded speech was released here.

Much of the controversy that has surrounded the police's handling of the demonstrations has focused on the wholesale arrest tactics that placed 12,000 persons behind bars in four days. Some of them protested that they were innocent bystanders, and many had to be released because the police had not kept records to link them to any offenses.

Mr. Mitchell dismissed the complaint made last week by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat, that the police had been forced to resort to mass arrests by "high level political decisions" within the Nixon Administration.

The Attorney General said that Police Chief Jerry Wilson had made the decision at the scene when demonstrators began to try to block rush-hour traffic. "It was his decision and his alone," Mr. Mitchell said, adding that "it was a coura-

geous decision, and in my opinion it was right."

Senator Kennedy replied in a statement that Mr. Mitchell "apparently believes that it is a model of law enforcement to arrest masses of innocent pedestrians."

He expressed "wonder" that Mr. Mitchell would announce his approval of the police actions and yet be "anxious to disclaim the Administration's responsibility for them and to place the blame on the dedicated men of the D. C. Police Department."

Critical of Sympathizers

Mr. Mitchell criticized the "sideliners" that he said had been "stepping forward to sympathize with the lawbreakers and fault the police." He included Senator Lee Metcalf, who scuffled with a policeman who tried to stop him from entering the Capitol.

"His contribution," Mr. Mitchell said of the Montana Democrat, "was, as reported in the press, to strike a police officer."

Mr. Mitchell gave qualified approval to the antiwar demon-

stration of April 24 as "on the whole a good example of American free speech and free assembly in action."

But he characterized the Mayday demonstrators as "rights robbers" intent on preventing Government employes and others from reporting to work.

"I hope we will never see a time when the United States Government or any other governmental authority will bow to such a wretched tactic. If governmental authorities ever do, they will be cooperating in their own destruction," he said.

He added that although oth-

ers will "make martyrs out of the mob," he would "choose as heroes the valiant Washington policemen who kept the City of Washington functioning and protected the rights of their fellow citizens."

He noted that Senator Metcalf had compared the police tactics with tactics of the Nazis. Mr. Mitchell said the protesters reminded him of "another group of civilians who roamed the streets of Germany in the 1920's, bullying people, shouting down those who disagreed with them, and denying other people their civil rights. They were called Hitler's Brown Shirts."

He said if they had been made to pay for taking other people's rights "before they could take over the German Government, the world might have been spared a whole era of violence and misery."

Steven D'Aruzich, a spokesman for the Mayday Collective here, replied in a statement that the Brown Shirts stood for "racism, militarism and imper-

alism—precisely those values we see motivating the Nixon Administration." He termed it "sheer hypocrisy" for Mr. Mitchell to call the demonstrators disruptive. "The Brown Shirt mentality is his, not ours," Mr. D'Aruzich said.

A spokesman for the House Committee On Internal Security—formerly called the House Committee on Un-American Activities—said today that members of the committee staff interviewed hundreds of young people last week while they were in jail awaiting court hearings.

The interviews were said to be part of a newly announced investigation of allegedly subversive organizations.



United Press International

ADDRESSES POLICE GROUP: Attorney General John N. Mitchell with Gov. Ronald Reagan, left, after speaking in San Francisco. Mr. Mitchell said demonstrations failed.

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Material on Mayday
demonstration filed
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