

# P.B.A. BLAMES CITY IN REPLY TO MAYOR ON LAXITY CHARGE

City Hall Directive Called  
'Inconsistent' as Guide  
in Attack by Workers

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By MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN

The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association charged yesterday that Friday's rushing of City Hall by construction workers and their attack on antiwar protesters stemmed from inadequate preparations and "inconsistent directives" from the Mayor's office.

The statement by the policemen's labor organization followed by a day a charge by Mayor Lindsay that the city had "witnessed a breakdown of the police as the barrier between them and wanton violence" on Friday.

The Mayor, angered by the rampage of workers—an action he called "organized and rough"—had ordered Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary to investigate what he said were "failures of police performance."

## 70 Were Injured

There were about 70 injuries, including those to four policemen, that resulted as a band of workers roamed through Lower Manhattan. The workers beat antiwar demonstrators and stormed City Hall to force officials to return to full staff a flag that had been lowered to half staff in memory of the four students slain at Kent State University last week by National Guardsmen.

The police began preparing for two rallies today in the same area. A group of college students said they would stage a "peaceful" protest "to close down" Wall Street in the morning, and construction workers were planning to meet at City Hall.

An officer at Police Headquarters said several hundred uniformed men and detectives had been assigned to the demonstration areas, but he declined to give a specific number. He said that other men would be available in mobile units—probably busses—to be moved in quickly if needed.

## Numbers Held Inadequate

In his statement, Edward J. Kiernan, president of the P.B.A., said: "The events in and around City Hall Park on Friday are directly attributable to an inadequate number of policemen assigned to demonstrations and to the inconsistent political directives imposed on the police by the Mayor's office.

"In the face of previous demonstrations, police have been

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ordered to remove their helmets and nightsticks and take minimal action—or no action. After demonstrations got out of hand with severe injuries of policemen as well as civilians, the police are then criticized for not taking enough action."

Mr. Kiernan said that the only way to eliminate confusion between restraint and inadequate police response "is to assign a sufficient number of patrolmen to handle any crisis



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**URGES PROBE: Michael Belknap, injured on Friday.**

that may arise at demonstrations and to permit those patrolmen to enforce the law firmly, consistently and equally against all violators for the protection of all citizens."

Spokesmen for the Mayor's office were unavailable for comment, but Barry H. Gottehrer, an executive assistant to the Mayor, appeared on the WCBS radio program "Let's Find Out," and heaped general praise upon the police. Citing some of the crowd control program put into effect by the department in the last few years, Mr. Gottehrer said, "I think our police work in New York has been superb."

However, criticism of the police from other quarters continued. Representative Edward I. Koch, a Manhattan Democrat, said at a joint meeting of the New York University and Columbia University faculty-student Senates that "the police commissioner ought to resign—or be made to resign."

"His police officers are involved in corruption, and now they can't even do the business of the police," Mr. Koch said.

Paul O'Dwyer, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for the Senate, said that he could not accept Commissioner Leary's explanation that the police had their forces stretched thin at City Hall because they were expecting trouble at Foley Square.

"It just doesn't seem reasonable," said Mr. O'Dwyer. "You know if it had been the kids who were rampaging, there would have been at least 10 or 15 arrests. But here there wasn't a single one."

Tom Morgan, the Mayor's press secretary, said on Friday after the attacks that his office had received a number of calls the day before warning of confrontations between the workers and demonstrators and that these had been turned over to the police.

Mr. O'Dwyer said he had heard reports that the workers might be planning another "assault" today. "What I heard was that some of the people were saying that if the kids come back Monday, they'd have even more men there."

John Lamula, a former Republican Assemblyman and chairman of a civic investigator group called the New York Truth Squad, said his organization was planning to bring civil suit in behalf of the students injured in the attack.

Mr. Lamula said that he had so far got in contact with three victims of the attack and that his squad was enlarging photographs taken during the fights to identify individuals.

"These phony heroes, some with unsavory police records, will be sued personally," Mr. Lamula said. In addition to the civil action, he said, he expected "all-out action by top city officials," including criminal prosecution by the District Attorney.

Michael Belknap, who was kicked and beaten at Pace College, across Park Row from City Hall, where he was serving as a legal observer during the demonstration, attacked yesterday the Mayor's call for an investigation of the incident by Commissioner Leary.

"It is just outrageous to have the Police Department investigating the failure of the police to act," said Mr. Belknap, whose eyes were still bloodied and blackened from his beating.

The 29-year-old lawyer, who is seeking the Democratic nomination as State Senator from Manhattan's East Side, issued a call for an independent citizens group to investigate discriminatory law enforcement. He also is considering the bringing of a class action in behalf of all these injured, seeking damages from the city.

A detective monitoring the special police number set up to receive information on Friday's attack, (577-7771) reported that a number of calls callers merely offered comments in favor of or against the attacks, but others, the detective said, supplied information. Neither he nor other police officials would comment on the substance of these calls.