

7,000 Arrested in Capital War Protest; 150 Are Hurt as Clashes Disrupt Traffic

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WASHINGTON, May 3—

About 7,000 antiwar protesters were in jails and temporary detention camps tonight after fighting running skirmishes with metropolitan police and Federal troops throughout large areas of the nation's capital.

About 150 were also injured in the six hours of disturbances as the protesters, demanding an immediate halt to the war in Vietnam, were thwarted in their plan to stop Government operations.

The protesters, who called themselves the Mayday Tirbe, did succeed in disrupting the city's normal functioning by impeding traffic and harassing Government employes on their way to work, using as weapons trash, tree limbs, stones, bottles, bricks, lumber, nails, tires, rubbish, bins and parked cars.

Tear Gas Used

The police defeated these tactics with tear gas and nightsticks. Chief Jerry V. Wilson said the demonstrators numbered 12,000 to 15,000. The 7,000 arrests were a record for a single day in the capital.

At the height of the disturbances, tear gas fumes filled the air over some of the city's most famous monuments, streets and grassy flowered parks. Garbage cans, trash, abandoned automobiles and other obstacles littered some chief arteries.

Those arrested included Renie Davis, a leader of the protesters.

The city's jails were quickly



Associated Press

Trash used as a barricade by antiwar protesters burns during morning rush hour at Farragut Square.

jammed to capacity. Many of those arrested were herded into buses and taken to the fenced practice field of the Washington Redskins football team, near Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium on the eastern edge of the city. Between 2,000 and

3,000 were there by late morning waiting to go to court and to be charged with disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly or blocking traffic.

Court officials estimated that it would require two days of round-the-clock arrangements

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IMPROVISED DETENTION CENTER: Some of the thousands of demonstrators arrested in Washington being guarded by U. S. Air Force troops at the Redskins' practice field.

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to process all the prisoners.

A check with three major downtown hospitals showed that 150 of the demonstrators had been injured, most of them slightly, and that five policemen had been hurt. One suffered a broken leg in a motor scooter accident. Scores of others who were scratched, bumped or shaken up were treated by Mayday Tribe medical units.

The entire force of 5,100 metropolitan police, acting under Administration instructions to be "firm," was on duty today. They were backed up by 1,500 National Guardsmen and 500 park police. In addition, 10,000 Federal troops were in reserve or deployed to support the police.

The scene for today's conflict was set yesterday morning at 6 A.M., when Chief Wilson unexpectedly announced that the tribe's permit to camp along the banks of the Potomac River had been revoked.

Throughout the morning, some 30,000 youths streamed out of the littered campsite, some heading for home, others seeking refuge in universities, churches, and private homes. Last evening, they regrouped to make plans for their assaults today.

Before dawn today, they drifted silently in groups of five or ten toward their designated targets. Regional units had been assigned to the four bridges leading into Washington from Virginia and to major intersections on roads from Maryland. One group assembled at the Washington Monument to march on the Pentagon.

Police "flying squads" moved to scenes of trouble on motorcycles, motor scooters and aboard buses.

The police did not wait for the protesters to seize a target. Instead, they dispersed the demonstrators with nightsticks and tear gas.

A police lieutenant said later that the police were under orders not to "fool around" with the protesters or merely to urge them to move along. He said they had been told to make immediate and massive arrests.

The police tactics broke the protesters into small bands—some as small as 10 to 20, the largest numbering 50 or 100—that roved the streets trying to stop traffic and to plead with motorists to join the demonstration.



The New York Times

SEIZED IN GEORGETOWN: A demonstrator protesting her innocence after being taken by police yesterday.

Pentagon Group Dispersed

The group that headed for the Pentagon was dispersed before reaching the 14th Street Bridge across the Potomac. It split into bands that sat down on Maine Avenue underneath the bridge. These protesters were tear gassed and fled.

Another group tried to stop cars by holding hands and spreading across a southbound lane. An angry motorist drove his car into them at about 15 miles an hour, flipping one young man up on the hood. He clambered to the roof of the car and beat on it with his fist until the driver slowed down and let him slide off about 150 yards down the road.

Much of the tear gas thrown along the approaches to the bridge floated into cars and buses bringing Government workers into the city. Dozens of employers were seen hurrying to their offices with tears streaming down their faces.

Only a handful of protesters reached the Pentagon. About 20 Vietnam veterans crossed a railroad bridge and flung paper bags of chicken excrement on the steps of the mall entrance, shouting that it was "for the chicken colonels."

Major Confrontations

Other major confrontations took place around the Lincoln Memorial and around the State Department and George Washington University.

After a motorist chased several demonstrators up onto the grass, then left the scene, one protester ran toward a policeman and tackled him nose-high. This man and several others were arrested.

Some protesters, driving their own cars, stalled traffic on the Memorial Bridge by driving two or three abreast at five miles an hour. But police helicopters hovering overhead warned the police on the ground.

One Volkswagen bus was stopped, the doors were jerked open and the startled occupants were hauled under arrest to a waiting police bus. By 9 A.M., the creeping cars had been removed from the bridge and parked on the grass, permitting traffic to resume.

Cars Lifted Onto Roadways

As the youths near the Lincoln Memorial were driven back into the State Department area, they seized several small cars and lifted them onto roadways to block traffic. On a nearby expressway, three girls stopped hundreds of cars by standing in the road until they were forced to flee.

Another area of conflict was Georgetown, west of the State Department and near the university, where many of the demonstrators spent the night. As they were driven back from the Francis Scott Key Bridge, they cluttered the intersection of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue with cars, wooden railings and garbage cans. Police-men cleared the obstacles away in about 15 minutes.

Tear gas was used so fre-

quently against roving bands in the narrow streets of Georgetown that one policeman called it "gas city."

At DuPont Circle, where Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire Avenues intersect, small groups dashed into the circle and out again to draw off the police, while others abandoned trash on a side street to jam up traffic. By mid-morning, the edge of the circle was lined with troops and the police used the fountain in the center as a holding area for several hundred arrested youths.

Along 21st Street, just west of the circle, traffic was blocked for more than an hour by youths who found a supply of cinderblocks and lumber and placed them in the street along with two automobiles.

Rennie Davis, a leader of the Mayday Tribe, who is a militant activist and was one of the Chicago Seven convicted under the Federal anti-riot law, was taken into custody by the Federal Bureau of Investigation about 4 P.M. as he emerged from a news conference in midtown Washington.

A spokesman for the Justice Department said that Mr. Davis was charged with conspiring against the constitutional rights of the citizens of Washington

and with conspiring to interfere with Government employes.

He was to be taken before a magistrate in the District of Columbia Court, where Justice Department attorneys planned to request that bond be set at \$100,000. If Mr. Davis were convicted on both charges, he would face a jail sentence of up to 15 years and fines of \$20,000.

The metropolitan police bore the brunt of the trouble today. Federal troops were assigned to guard the bridges, to secure certain areas and to be held in reserve. About 200 marines from Camp Lejeune, N. C., were landed by helicopter in the Washington Monument grounds in mid-morning to protect the nearby Justice Department if necessary.

A battalion of paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N. C., was held in reserve at Kennedy Stadium. Other Army units deployed were from the Sixth Armored Cavalry and the 519th Military Police Battalion from Fort Meade, Md.; the 91st Engineer Battalion from Fort Belvoir, Va.; the First Field Army Support Command from Fort Lee, Va., and the Marine Corps Provisional Battalion from Quantico, Va.