

Danville Civil Rights Protests, 1963
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DANVILLE REGISTER

LOCAL
NEWS

Second
Section

DANVILLE, VA., TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 1963

Up Demonstration



Bowling Asks Venue Change; Motion Denied

Judge Langhorne Jones has denied a motion by counsel for City Engineer H. D. Bowling seeking a change of venue for the second trial of his \$100,000 slander suit against City Councilman Fletcher D. Harris.

Bowling's attorney had sought to have a jury picked from outside the city on the grounds that a fair and impartial jury could

Danville police and firemen late last night broke up a third Negro demonstration with water hose blasts and night sticks as the Negroes ignored a court injunction prohibiting such demonstrations.

An afternoon demonstration was completely peaceful but one in the morning was marked by 37 arrests and a Negro attack on a car occupied by three white men.

In the night demonstration, approximately 65 Negroes, being led by the Rev. Hildreth G. McGhee, 37, of 191 Melbourne Circle, sought to escape the fierce blasts from the water hoses by huddling between two parked cars alongside a fence surrounding City Jail.

Uniformed and special police drove them from between the cars by scrambling over the cars and beating them with their newly made night sticks.

Mayor Gives Order

Moments earlier the Negroes had ignored Police Chief E. G. McCain's orders for them to disperse. McCain acted after consulting Mayor Julian Stinson and being told by Stinson to "Give them all you've got."

About 100 Negroes took part in the morning demonstration by parading through the streets and around City Hall before fire hoses were turned on them for the first time since the demonstrations were started May 30.

The afternoon demonstration, unmarred by any violence, was intended, according to the Rev. L. W. Chase, to "prove we can conduct peaceful demonstrations."

Although police and firemen stood by, they never made any effort to interfere with the Chase-led demonstration. The pastor of High St. Baptist Church said the demonstration led by him did not mean he was condoning anything that had happened earlier.

Chief McCain allowed the night demonstrators to parade and sing around the City Jail just one time before he stopped them in the parking lot between City Hall

Forty Arrested As Injunction Defied

Fire Hoses, Billy Sticks Rout Night Demonstrators

Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

Photographer Arrested
Zellner was charged with assault on Chief McCain and inciting to riot. Just before his arrest, Zellner took a picture of the huddled Negroes and the flash from his camera went off in McCain's which many had volunteered to face. The police chief turned on Zellner, pushing him back, grabbing his camera and smashing it to the ground.

The Rev. Dunlap, one of the original organizers of the demonstrations and one of several under indictment for inciting to riot, told the Associated Press "I am mighty afraid violence will erupt

Some of our men said they were going to get their guns . . . If they don't send some troopers here, blood may flow in the streets."

He said the demonstrators came to the jail from a mass meeting of several hundred Negroes at which many had volunteered to hold an all-night prayer service at the jail for those imprisoned earlier in the day.

Police reported gunfire early this morning in the Liberty View area where most of the Negro demonstrators apparently live. At least one police car reportedly and Pearl streets.

Police were equipped with riot guns and were stationed at key points about the city after the night demonstration was broken up.

Policeman Bitten

Police Sgt. Tom Talley was bitten on the hand while arresting demonstrators during the morning. Although the wound did not require any stitches, he was treated for it at Memorial Hospital.

Detective Capt. Juby E. Towler said the door was torn off a car driven by Clyde W. Taylor of 118 Bradford St. when Taylor and two companions were trapped inside the car near the City Curb Market by a large group of Negroes who escaped arrest after the morning demonstration was broken up.

Towler said Taylor also was punched in the mouth.

Police and firemen rescued Taylor and his two companions but, according to Towler, the on'y Negro arrested apparently did not do any damage to the car.

Towler identified Taylor's two companions as Roy Willis of Providence, N. C., and Clark Hodges. No address was listed for Hodges.

Police Officer C. L. Fuller said he was driving away from the Curb Market when he saw the Negroes surrounding Taylor's car. He said they threw trash cans at it, among other things.

Neither Dunlap, the Rev. Lawrence Campbell nor Julius Adams — the three men indicted by a grand jury last Saturday — took an active part in either of the day's three demonstrations although Dunlap and Campbell both were reportedly in a car on Union St. when the morning demonstration occurred.

Danville Authorities Commended By Tuck

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. William M. Tuck, D-Va., commended today Danville, Va., authorities "for the forthright manner" of handling a protest march by Negroes in defiance of a court order.

Tuck sent a telegram to Mayor Julian Stinson of Danville, saying "it is my purpose to stand behind you 100 per cent."

"This eruption of violence," Tuck added, "I am sure can be traced directly to troublemakers in Washington and elsewhere who have been preaching enforced integration against the will and the sound judgment of the most thoughtful people of both races." He added:

"We do not need and will not tolerate any outside interfering such as that which has plagued Birmingham and other parts of the nation."

"I am confident that the officers and the police force of Danville will handle this situation in a commendable manner with a firm hand and resolute will and that they will deal summarily with all those who refuse to abide by the law and who are promoting strife, disorder and discord."

"In this I am sure that you and all those associated with you will have the unqualified support of the better people of Danville irrespective of race."

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Motion To Reinstate Hall Deferred By City Council

the parking lot between City Hall and the jail.

As the Rev. Mr. McGhee called on the demonstrators to pray, Chief McCain shouted out, "I'm ordering you to move right now. I'm tired of this."

The Negroes paid no heed to this but instead huddled up closer to their leader. On instructions from McCain, Police Capt. Norman Boswell and another officer took McGhee by each arm and carried him inside City Hall where he was booked for violating the court injunction.

Hoses Turned On

As the preacher was carried away, the fire hoses were turned on. The Negroes, with their backs to the water, crowded between the two cars, parked back to back next to the fence.

Several sought refuge from the flailing night sticks by crawling under the cars. Others ran and fell into the parking lot but were promptly dragged into the street by policemen and sent running down the street with still more licks from the night sticks.

In addition to McGhee, one other Negro was arrested. He was Charlie Henry Echols, 33, of 314 Garfield St., Apt. 4. He was charged with inciting to riot.

The first white man to be arrested since the demonstrations started also was taken into custody at the night demonstration. He was identified as John Robert Zellner, 24, of Atlanta, Ga., who was quoted by court authorities as saying he was a photographer for the "Citizen-Patriot News" of Louisville, Ky. However, the Associated Press, after talking with the Rev. A. I. Dunlap, called him a member of the Board of the Southern Conference Educational Fund and a member of the

A motion to reinstate former Police Sgt. Raymond Hall to the police force was deferred last night at a later City Council meeting after City Manager T. E. Temple urged the city fathers to give him an opportunity to make a report to them on the matter.

Temple told the Councilmen any effort by the Council to force Hall's reinstatement over his objections would be a violation of the City Charter which gives him sole responsibility for hiring and firing city employees.

For Council to adopt the reinstatement motion of Fletcher Harris would do "nothing in the world but bring more chaos than we now have," Temple said.

He urged the Councilmen to postpone action "until a moment not as tense . . . when our nerves are not on edge such as this." He was referring to the tension caused by nearly two weeks of racial demonstrations.

Harris agreed to go along with Dr. L. D. Arey's substitute motion provided the matter be considered "at the earliest possible moment."

In offering his motion on roll call, Harris said, "In view of the fact the courts have cleared Raymond Hall, I move his reinstatement with full benefits."

His motion was seconded by Cassell Jones.

John Carter, one of three attorneys who represented Hall at the trial, said he intended to

abstain from any discussions on the matter but pointed out that it has been Council policy in the past not to act on motions on the same night they were brought up on roll call.

Hall was fired from the force in March on the same morning he was charged with accepting a \$50 bribe from a Negro ATU agent posing as a bootlegger. A Corporation Court jury found him not guilty of the charge.

After Harris made his motion, Temple pleaded with the city fathers to "be fair in reading in the Charter."

He said this was the first time in 13 years as Danville city manager that he had had to call to Council's attention the Charter's provisions giving him responsibility for hiring and firing of employees.

"It is my responsibility to handle certain matters. There cannot be dual responsibility in matters of this kind," he said.

George Anderson asked Temple if he had something he wanted to report to Council on the matter and Temple said he did. He added that only one councilman, Jones, had said anything to him about reinstating Hall and that he had promised Jones to make a full report on the issue at a later Council meeting.

The day he was to make the report the Council meeting was forced into an early adjournment by a Negro demonstration outside City Hall.

With the Rev. Chase during the afternoon demonstration was the Rev. William A. Gray, who said he is Dunlap's successor at St. Pauls AME Church. He denied that the latter was forced to resign. Instead, said the Rev. Gray, Dunlap resigned after receiving a position as vice-president of a North Carolina college "at twice his present salary."

"Peaceful Demonstration"

The Rev. Mr. Chase said "our motive is a peaceful, nonviolent demonstration."

He said the Negroes also felt the court injunction was illegal since only one side was presented when it was issued.

Technically, however, it is not an injunction but a restraining order prohibiting any further demonstrations until the city's request for a permanent injunction can be argued at a hearing July 6. The July date was set at the request of Len Holt, attorney for the Negroes.

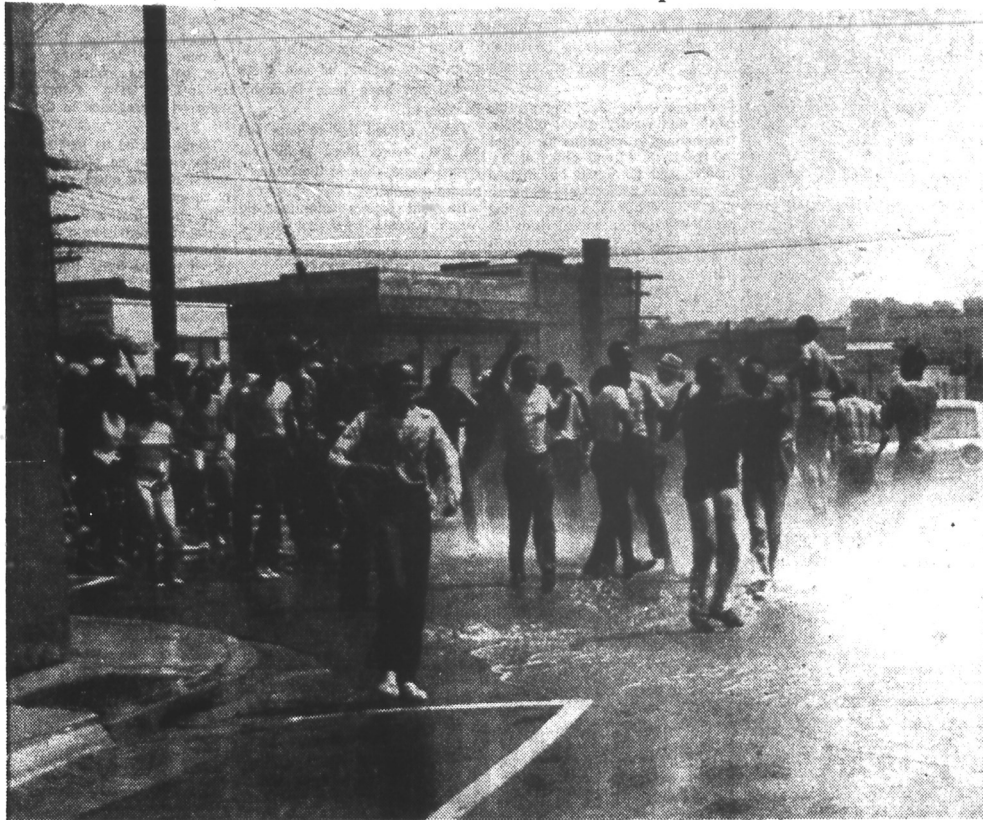
The Rev. Mr. Chase was careful that his demonstrators did not sign, carry placards, block entrances or traffic or in any other manner violate the specific prohibitions listed in the restraining order issued last Friday by Judge A. M. Aiken.

The Rev. Mr. Chase last week urged Negro demonstrators to go home after the first violence occurred. He said he then was trying to keep the demonstrations peaceful and that yesterday's demonstration led by him was "continuing what had been left off."

The Negroes all teen-agers except the Rev. Mr. Chase, marched to the steps of City Hall in silent array and queued up and down the steps, continually in motion.

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Firemen, Police Join Forces To Break Up Demonstration



Citation: Danville Register, June 11, 1963, Library of Virginia