

# Police Arrest 43 At 'Rights' Party

Members of the Adult Community Movement for Equality (ACME) met with police commissioner Ray Girardin late Tuesday in attempts to clarify the reason for a mass arrest that took place Friday night at the home of one of the group members.

Police arrested 43 people in a raid on what they contended was a "blind pig".

Mrs. Geraldine Nelson, co-chairman of the organization, stated there was a party for ACME members and their friends. She said it was a private party and was not a "blind pig".

The 43 people were taken to the precinct and held there for more than 10 hours. They were then released and were not charged with the commission of any crime.

Two other people were arrested as they approached the

scene. Both denied having been at the party.

Wilbert McClendon, co-chairman of the eastside civil rights organization, said, "This incident represents the latest in a series of harrassments by the police department and particularly in the fifth precinct where ACME headquarters are located."

McClendon said, "It is obvious they were only trying to intimidate us. No laws were being broken. The officers had no warrant to enter the house and they had no warrant for the arrest of any of the people involved."

Mrs. Nelson said, "We think it was a pre-planned raid. We have felt for sometime that our phone was tapped and we assume this is how the police knew about the party in advance."