

Dear Commissioner Spreen:

After much study and discussion of your statement on the Wallace

Cobo Hall II

APPENDIX #3

Citizens of Detroit is moved once again to express  
at the flagrant violation of the principles of  
and the same decency displayed by Detroit Police in last night's  
incident at Cobo Hall. We view this as a sinister demonstration that the  
patterns of abusing private citizens by the police which have occurred in the  
past show no signs of having been changed. The future of democracy in our city  
and in our nation will be determined only by unprecedented positive response  
of our civil authorities to eradicate the unfit from the ranks of the police  
and to punish those who violate the fixed and accepted standards of police  
practice.

The delay in dealing with the first Cobo Hall incident reveals to us the  
complacency on the part of the Mayor and the Police Commissioner as well  
as indifference to innocent citizens whose blood is spilled for no just cause  
in our city streets.

Last night one provocative act of unjustifiable offense against one police  
officer unleashed a fury of attack upon clusters of citizens who peacefully  
assembled to express their political point of view in a public manner.

No warning to disperse was issued.

The violent use of nightsticks was clearly evident.

The badges of the police had been removed in order to make identification  
of individual offenders impossible.

No effort was made by commanding officers to institute measures of restraint.

We see this as a breakdown of long-established principles of free assembly  
and public expression of opinion and warn that if the police themselves see  
violence as the only means to maintain order and justice they will drive  
dissenters to the use of similar means. We are appalled at the possibility of  
open warfare between the public and the police.

We also see the acceptance of uncontrolled police power as a factor which will  
be demoralizing to those members of the police force who adhere to the  
highest and noblest standards of the profession, who abhor the excessive  
behavior of their colleagues, and who form the base for the renewal and  
reformation of the entire police system.

It is in the interest of all of us - police officers, public officials,  
general public - that the following actions be taken by the Police Commissioner:

1. An immediate evaluation of the general pattern of his department's  
behavior in last night's incident and to be made a matter of public  
record.
2. An identification and public announcement of the officers in  
charge of maintaining the peace at the Wallace Rally.
3. An explanation for the unwarranted delay in dealing with the complaints  
arising out of the first Cobo Hall affair and which have been  
gathering dust on the Commissioner's desk.
4. An immediate investigation of the specific details of last night's  
incident by delegated police officials.