

## STATEMENT OF PROTEST &amp; DEMAND FOR ACTION

RECEIVED  
MAY 27 1968

TO: Honorable Jerome P. Cavanaugh  
Ray Girardin  
Lawrence Gubow  
Citizens Complaint Bureau  
Michigan Civil Rights Commission

C. R. C.

On Monday, May 13, 1968, the Midwest Contingent of the Poor People's Campaign, sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was subjected to a demonstration of the callous racism that is characteristic of the police department of the City of Detroit. In the absence of any provocation, as attested to by an official of the Citizens' Complaint Bureau of the Detroit Police Department, as well as by a member of the Mayor's Commission on Community Relations, and by officials of the United States Department of Justice, the police attacked a group of peaceful marchers, who were only concerned with repairing their campaign Command car and being on their way.

Never before to our knowledge has an act of blatant abuse of police power been witnessed by so many unimpeachable eye-witnesses, including, in addition to those already mentioned; delegates and marshals of the Poor People's Campaign, members of the Mayor's personal staff, staff personnel of the Police Department and of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, clergymen, religious, doctors, lawyers, and many more.

We can conceive of no circumstance which would justify the use of police horses or night-sticks against peaceful, unarmed citizens. No arrests were made. This, taken together with five people hospitalized and many more needing medical attention tells its own unmistakable story. Moreover, that these particular people, peaceful petitioners fresh from a civic welcome, be brutalized, highlights the unbelievable ineptitude of the police department.

Yet, despite the clear record of this atrocity, and even though Mayor Cavanaugh told an assembly of poor people and their representatives at a meeting in the City-County Building Auditorium held on Tuesday afternoon, May 14, that he deeply regretted the incident, and further that officers under such grave charges would be suspended, pending investigation; to our knowledge and dismay no action of any kind has been forthcoming and all these officers continue in their normal positions on the force.

The failure of the City Administration and other agencies of government to act promptly and effectively on this matter threatens the peace and security of this community. This pattern of police misconduct going unpunished has become too familiar in Detroit, and will most assuredly not be tolerated much longer by those who have characteristically been its victims. This is the stuff of which riots are made.

We insist on an immediate, full public accounting of this incident. Its particulars by now are well known. What is not well known is whether or not a response to this atrocity, committed not by casual citizens but by persons whom we reward with a \$10,300 salary, is going to be forthcoming from those in government and outside of government; a response that is commensurate to the level of barbarity and utter disregard for constitutional and moral precepts exhibited by the police.

But beyond immediate redress and action on this flagrant abuse of police power, we insist that immediate steps be taken to ensure that all officers of the Detroit Police Department conduct themselves in a fair and impartial manner consistent with the constitutional enforcement of the law, or be dismissed.

We expect and demand vigorous action by every agency of government involved in this matter, in particular we expect the mayor to re-establish civilian control of the Police Department of the City of Detroit. Let any segments of this society that cannot be a force for love and order be dissolved that those others may be about their work.

We are willing to meet anywhere and at any time to assist in any manner which may be necessary to achieve our goal to prompt redress and effective action by responsive and responsible officials.

SIGNATURES AFFIXED: SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1968

Frank Ditto  
EAST SIDE VOICE OF INDEPENDENT DETROIT

1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Rep. John Conyers, Murray Jackson

STATE SENATE  
Coleman Young

CCAC, ICOC  
Rev. Albert Cleage, Edward Vaughn

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, NEW BETHEL CHURCH  
Rev. Cecil Franklin

DEPT. OF PROGRAM, EPISCOPAL ARCH DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN  
Fr. Fred Jansen

CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP'S COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
Fr. James Sheehan

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
Bob Shepherd

INTERFAITH ACTION COUNCIL  
William Standing

SUBURBAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
Harriet Arnowitz

NAACP  
Robert Tindal

^CLU  
Ernest Mazey

METROPOLITAN DETROIT COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
R.L. Kincheloe

MICHIGAN CHRONICAL  
Al Dunmore, Carlyle Douglas

COMMUNITY ACTION NEIGHBORS NORTHWEST  
Mrs. John Hock, Rev. David Mitcham, Dr. Abraham Citron

HOURLASS  
Mr. Donald Castle

HOMES BY CHRISTMAS  
Dr. Sally Cassidy

ST. STEPHENS BAPTIST CHURCH  
Rev. Grover Burt

BEREA METHODIST CHURCH  
Rev. Archie Rich

STUDENT GOVERNMENT\* UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT  
Michael Craine

MOST HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Msgr. Clement Kern