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EXECUTIVE OFFICE

29465 Gilcrest  
Farmington, Michigan

May 14, 1968

Mayor Jerome P. Cavanaugh  
City-County Building  
Detroit, Michigan

*file*  
*Detroit, Mich 8*

Dear Sir:

This letter is to protest the behavior of the Detroit Police Department on the evening of May 13 at Cobo Hall. I am a suburban housewife, mother of eight and a substitute teacher in the public school system. I approve of the goals of the Poor People's Campaign and gave physical support to the campaign by joining the march at its starting point at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Two of my teenage daughters and I arrived with some students and faculty from Marian High School.

At all times, the tenor of the marchers was non-violent.....peaceful. A spirit of cameraderie pervaded the group all through the long, hot march. The presence of the motorcycle escort was no doubt a necessity, since traffic did have to be rerouted. However, the excessive number of policemen (mounted and on foot) in the Cobo Hall area was completely out of keeping with reality.

I was part of the peaceful, unsuspecting group who were attacked without warning, by the mounted police outside the building. I was part of the terrified group who sought shelter from the horses hooves and swinging clubs, within the building. I was part of the dazed men, women and children who were attacked inside the building by club swinging policemen, shouting obscenities.....policemen who forced us back out toward the pavement and the horses.

I was part of that nightmare scene.....and the horror if it will be part of me forever. And the real horror if it is this.....the very men who were hired to uphold law and order in the community, were themselves the oppressors and originators of violence.

I shall do everything in my power to see that this incident is brought to the attention of as

Many people as possible, so that when cries of "police brutality" are raised, citizens will know that this is not a manufactured claim, but is, indeed, a reality. This is something that I can do to bring decency and justice to our city.

I am also demanding that you, as Mayor of this city, do something. I am not only protesting the police action, but am adding my voice, as a citizen of the Detroit community, to the demands made today, May 14 in the Council chambers by Mr. Frank Ditto. Immediate, positive action must be taken. I ask that you, as Mayor of the City of Detroit, assume the leadership that the entire community, black and white, has a right to expect.

Sincerely,

*Eve C. Walsh*

Eve C. Walsh  
(Mrs. James E., Jr.)

Copies to: Gov. George Romney  
Police Comm. Ray Girardin  
Rev. C.L. Franklin  
Justice Office--Interfaith  
Action Council  
Farmington Enterprise and  
Observer  
Birmingham Eccentric  
Pontiac Press  
Michigan Catholic  
Mr. Frank Ditto