

# THE ORGANIZER

A Publication of the Northern Student Movement

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## Detroit NSM

Detroit was the scene Saturday night (July 10th) of the police harrassment and brutality that has long plagued members of the NSM and ACME staffs, as well as residents of the East Side Community.

The disturbances began at 11:15 with the issuance of a traffic ticket to 19 year old John Mumford for making a wrong turn. Not content to issue the ticket peaceably, the policeman started to beat Mumford and when John Scott, who was also in the car, intervened, he was beaten as well. The incident drew large crowds the officer, a rookie, panicked and called for assistance. Fifteen police cars arrived on the scene, including cars from the 5th and 7th precincts. Two bricks were thrown, hitting a police car but not resulting in any injuries.

The incident began while five civil rights workers were driving from the Adult Community Movement for Equality (A.C.M.E.) at 9211 Kercheval. Those in the car were: Frank Joyce, Director Northern Student Movement; Alvin Harrison, Field Secretary, The NSM-Detroit project; Cortland Cox of the Washington office of Student Non-violent Co-ordinating Committee (SNCC); Dorothy Dewberry, Coordinator, Detroit Friends of SNCC; and Martha Kocel, Chairman, Detroit Friends of SNCC. They saw a policeman chase a man, Mr. Dennis, up to a porch, after which he knocked him down the steps, kicked him, and handcuffed him, arresting him on a charge of resisting and obstructing a police officer. (At this time the three male workers got out of the car to see what was going on.)

The police started to disperse the crowd, one policeman escorting Joyce, Harrison, and Cox away from the scene of the incident. When they stopped at a corner to wait for the women to join them, the policeman ordered Frank Joyce to get off the sidewalk.

When he moved from the sidewalk to the grass, the policeman ordered him into the police car. Cortland Cox asked the officer if he could go down the street to meet the girls they were waiting for, in reply to which he was ordered into the car. Alvin Harrison was looking for a telephone and was told by the officer that he was obstructing traffic and to get in the car. All three were charged with resisting and obstructing a police officer in the course of his duty. The charge is a high misdemeanor, with a maximum sentence of two years in prison. Bail of \$500 each was sent for the three; they spent 40 hours in jail from the arrest Saturday night until after their arraignment in Recorder's Court at 1:00 P.M. Monday. Their examination will take place July 22nd; no trial date has been set. Pleas of innocent were entered.

A total of seven adults (Mumford, Scott, Dennis, Joyce, Harrison and Cox) were arrested, along with two juveniles who were arrested for throwing bricks. An attempt is being made to have the juveniles tried as adults. The incidents of July 10th are typical of police treatment of Detroit's Negro community and of the staff of the Detroit NSM and ACME. The police department has for years engaged in summary arrests on trumped-up charges, treatment of those arrested with arrogance and brutality, and they use their guns recklessly, resulting in permanent crippling in one case and death in another. (Two police shootings in Detroit have already occurred this year, the most recent was three weeks ago.) The parallel between Detroit and Mississippi in this respect is appallingly close.

THE PROJECT'S RESPONSE WAS STATED IN THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE:

The Northern Student Movement (NSM), The Adult Community Movement for Equality (ACME), and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) today announced plans for a mass demonstration at 6:30 P.M. Thursday, July 15th, at the Seventh Precinct (Mack station). The demonstration is being called to protest the unjustified arrests of 11 people in an east side disturbance last Saturday and the manner of the police in handling that incident. The demonstration will begin with a march from the corner of Seyburn and Charlevoix (scene of the Saturday incident), proceed North to Mack Ave. and West to the police station. There will be a rally following the picket. An NSM spokesman stated that extensive preparations are being made, and the police department will be informed that community people will marshal the picket line.

Mr. Joyce stated, "The aggressive and abusive manner of the police officers served only to antagonize the people present, and it is important for the public to understand that a riot did not occur that evening only because the community people did not respond with violence to the brutality of the police involved." He stated that one youngster was severely beaten by the police, a young woman manhandled, and a number of bystanders pushed and shoved by officers using nightsticks and that the officers used abusive and derogatory language.

The plan for the rally of July 15th drew 300 people protesting police brutality, this plan is included below to illustrate the careful and thorough organization of the Detroit NSM staff:

I. DEMONSTRATION

A. Neighborhood Contacts

1. Teenagers

a. Wilbert, Tommy, Karen