

MEMORANDUM

Civil Rights Commission
Division Community Services

TO: Burton I. Gordin

DATE Thursday, July 27, 1967

FROM: Burton Levy

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON AREA TENSIONS .. as of noon, July 27, 1967

ADRIAN

Everything quiet. Some concern about the East side of Washtenaw County.

ALBION

Nothing to report.

ANN ARBOR

Everything quiet. Mr. Wright is concerned about a call that Mr. Ezra Rowry (pres., A.A. chapter CORE) made to Mr. Burton Gordin regarding the death of 1 of 50 prisoners from Detroit that are in the Ann Arbor jail. Apparently Mr. Rowry and Mr. Hunter of the A.A.HRC attempted to find out what happened and they were denied any kind of information. They are concerned about conditions at the jail as well as the cause of death. If someone in the Detroit office is not investigating this, Harry Wright will pursue the matter.

BATTLE CREEK

Everything quiet. It rained Wednesday night.

BENTON HARBOR

All quiet except for 2 Molotov cocktails that were thrown behind the Italian Village Restaurant. The fire was put out.

CASSOPOLIS

Rumors. Area tense. No overt action.

DOWAGIAC

Rock throwing on Tuesday night. Rumors. Area tense. No overt action.

FLINT

A tense night. About 60 fires reported. Generally touch and go. Lots of rumors. The Negro community feels there is too much show of police force.

GRAND RAPIDS

Things relatively quiet. City under tight control by police. Lt. Gov. Milliken on the scene all day yesterday with intentions to be there all last night too. Mr. Anderson met with the Mayor and representatives of federal government. City officials had been making an effort throughout the day yesterday (Wednesday) to meet with ghetto residents in order to calm tensions. Former Senator Jack Stehlin of the Higher Education Facilities Commission was on the scene representing the Governor's office, as was Jac Fleming representing the House Civil Rights Committee.

HAMTRAMCK

An informal report of indiscriminate arrests of Negroes in Hamtramck was received via Robert Tindal, Exec. Secy of the Detroit Chapter NAACP. Miss Cooper immediately visited the Hamtramck P.D. and got the following information: 54 arrests were made on both Sunday and Monday. 7 arrests on Tuesday. 8 arrests on Wednesday. The lieutenant making the determination on whether or not to take suspects to Court is a Negro. There has been evidence of a stiff approach to looters. The only people in this category

have come from Detroit .. which may account for the rumors of discrimination against Detroit residents. The secretary to the Police Commissioner, a Mr. Jablonski, and the police officers concerned, expressed interest in talking with Eugene A. Gray of the Hamtramck NAACP (the man who initiated the investigation.)

JACKSON

Everything quiet. Some concern about the east side of Washtenaw County.

KAIAMAZO.

Disorder fairly light. A number of arrests. Mr. Newby intends to go to this city sometime today.

LANSING

Everything seems to be quiet.

MONROE

Everything quiet. Some concern about the east side of Washtenaw County. Increasing #s of people from Detroit & Toledo come into Monroe Co. to buy liquor.

MUSKEGON

Everything quiet last night. No problems. It has rained in Muskegon for the past day and a half. Mr. Adler does not anticipate any problems.

NILES

A Molotov cocktail destroyed the Metalcraft Corp. building, (which was only being used to store materials.) Another Molotov cocktail which did not go off, was found in a lumber yard adjoining the Metalcraft Corp. building. Mr. Davis is going to Niles this afternoon and will try to reach local youths through community leaders. One rumor has it that a Black Muslim leader, dressed in black clothing, is attempting to stir up further trouble. Rumors are of extended trouble for the week-end. Some tenseness in Howard Township (on the edge of Niles.) Mr. Davis suggested that the police keep watch for out-of-county as well as out of state license plates (because of nearness to South Bend, Indiana) and for strangers coming to the area. Area tense because of trouble in nearby South Bend. Niles residents relieved that CRC representative was on the scene.

PONTIAC

This morning Miss Ray met with Bondswoman Marie Johnson, Al Shaw (director of the School Community Program at Jefferson Junior High),^{and} the Mayor to prepare for a 2:00 p.m. meeting this afternoon between the Mayor and some young people. The young people are making three demands: (1) that kids who are presently in jail be released on their own reconnaissance. (2) That the city immediately prepare to build prefab housing and relocate the people presently living at Crystal Beach. (3) Prohibit State Rep. Law from reopening business in the Negro neighborhood.

Miss Ray also met with Al Shaw, Mrs. Johnson and some youngsters at 5 pm yesterday (Wednesday) regarding plans for today's meeting. Some people who had participated in the burning and looting on Monday night heard about the meeting and came down and broke the meeting up saying that the people who were present (primarily high school and college kids..good kids).had no right to represent them. The meeting was very emotional and ended in a fracas. Nothing was accomplished except that they will go on with the meeting planned for 2 pm today. The Mayor has agreed to make a statement to the Press that he is having such a meeting. He requested Miss Ray not to attend.

Last night (Wednesday) there were a small number of arrests..perhaps 5. The folks who disrupted the meeting made reference to the fact that after Friday night there would be no more grocery stores in the Negro neighborhood. They made allusion to "tomorrow night" being the night that will be "hot."