

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1967

Early Morning, Thursday, July 27, 1967: Mayor Cavanagh reported that in view of the improved situation on Thursday morning, the first steps were being taken to restore full responsibility for the maintenance of law and order to state and local authorities. He also noted that he and General Throckmorton had agreed that an order should be issued to Federal forces and National Guardsmen to sheath bayonets and remove ammunition from all weapons used by these forces. The order was issued and complied with. It was reported by Hubert Locke, former Special Assistant to Commissioner Girardin that the commanding officers of each of the precincts had a joint meeting--the first such meeting held during the riot. At this meeting Commissioner Girardin advised the precinct commanders that it had been brought to his attention that some squad cars had taped over their license plates to avoid identification. Girardin insisted that all tape be removed and he cautioned the officers that if any squad car was seen on the streets with its identifying insignia removed or taped over, the officer in charge of the precinct to which the car was assigned would be in serious trouble.

10:00 A.M., Thursday, July 27, 1967: Mayor Cavanagh announced that the curfew had been lifted and that there had been an easing on the restriction of the selling of gasoline. Some citizens apparently called to request that the curfew be reimposed because rumors persisted that further violence would occur.

Shortly after 4:00 P.M., Thursday: According to Cyrus Vance a meeting of several hundred community leaders was held at 4:15 to discuss how best to get the city back on its feet. General Throckmorton and Mayor Cavanagh gave brief reports on the status of law and order and on the Federal actions being taken to provide for emergency food, health and safety needs. Following the remarks made by a number of participants, Governor Romney announced the appointment of J. L. Hudson, Jr., as head of a committee of community leaders from various political and economic background. This committee, known as the New Detroit Committee, was given the responsibility for developing plans for the recovery of the city and the building of better relations.

Thursday Evening: Shortly after 7:00 p.m. the curfew was reimposed by the governor. The FBI reported that it had been advised that there had not been a marked increase

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in the number of incidents as compared to the previous evening. At this time no major fires were in progress and the fire department reported a normal number of fire runs.

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1967

Shortly after Midnight, Friday nineteen year old William N. Dalton, an ex-Job Corps trainee was killed by the shotgun blast of an unidentified patrolman. A number of witnesses claim that Dalton had been stopped and was goaded by police into making a break. He was shot when he ran. Investigators from the Detroit homicide bureau deny this version: According to the Free Press, they reported that Dalton and several of his companions were committing arson during the night. They claim that Dalton "may have been attempting to escape arrest" and that, if he was so attempting, they had every right to shoot. An investigation of the case showed, however, that no report of the shooting was ever filed. Detroit Free Press investigators noted that of the several persons who said they had witnessed the incident, not one had ever been able to provide information that could help identify the officer that they said fired the shot.

Approximately 2:30 A.M., Friday, July 28, 1967: At this time, the FBI reported that it had been advised by the police department that for the first time in five days

there were no reports of riot-related incidents in the 10th precinct and that conditions appeared to be calm in that area.

Morning, Friday, July 28, 1967: Cyrus Vance reported that he had met Governor Romney and Mayor Cavanagh in accordance with a telegram from the President of Thursday, July 27th and that they had discussed further the emergency health, food and safety needs of the citizens of Detroit. He reported that since there had been substantial improvement in the situation, the first steps taken to withdraw Federal troops from the Detroit area. As Federal forces were moved out of the First, Seventh and Thirteenth precincts, the responsibility for these sectors was taken over by the National Guard troops. The FBI reported that inasmuch as all local facilities for the incarceration of riot arrestees were filled to capacity the governor had announced that many individuals arrested for offenses such as looting and curfew violation were being released on personal bond, provided that they had no prior criminal record.

Noon, Friday, July 28, 1967: As clean-up operations began in the riot area, 300 Michigan state police officers and

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800 members of the Michigan National Guard were returned to their posts outside the Detroit area.

12:30 P.M., Friday, July 28, 1967: Cyrus Vance, Deputy Attorney General Christopher, and the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division, John Doar, met with Governor Romney, Mayor Cavanagh and other state, city, and county legal and judicial authorities to review the problems connected with the large number of persons who were still in custody awaiting disposition of their cases. It was noted that most of the arrestees during the riot were for curfew violations and that a substantial number of those arrested were being released at the precinct level to appear in court at a later date.

Early Evening, Friday, July 28, 1967: The FBI reported that it had been advised that relatively little riot-related activity had occurred during the early evening. Most of the reported incidents, which included sniping, looting and burning, were unconfirmed, and very little looting had been reported.

8:00 P.M., Friday, July 28, 1967: By Friday evening it was necessary for Mayor Cavanagh to reinstate the curfew

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because hordes of sightseers were driving through the riot affected areas hampering clean-up operations and causing the kind of crowds and confusion that could have ignited further rioting in the area.

Late Evening, Friday: The FBI reported that Governor Romney said in a news broadcast that the Detroit area was secure and free from major incidents of sniping, looting and arson.

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SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1967

1:30 A.M., Saturday: The FBI reported that it had been advised that a National Guardsman in the area of 12th and Philadelphia Street was fired upon by a sniper using a bow and arrow. The Guardsman was not injured. Mr. Vance reported that early Saturday morning he returned to Washington to report to the President on the situation and attend the first meeting of the President's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. In a news conference, the Governor announced that the Small Business Administration had declared Detroit a disaster area. This declaration had the effect of authorizing low interest (3%) long-term (30 year) loans for repairing or replacing small businesses destroyed or damaged by the riot. Governor Romney announced that 1,400 prisoners were released as of 6:00 A.M. Saturday morning and Mayor Cavanagh noted that although a new policy was never formally adopted, some of the judges beginning on Tuesday or Wednesday and continuing through Thursday, Friday and Saturday, abandoned the policy of arbitrary high bond for persons arrested during the rioting and considered each case on its merits. According to the fire chief,



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the fire department resumed its normal shift schedule on Saturday morning.

Noon, Saturday: Governor Romney announced that conditions of the Detroit area were improved. He urged people in the community to attend church and advised that his proclamation limiting the congregation of five or more persons had been rescinded. He also announced that the curfew for Saturday, July 29, and Sunday, July 30, would be imposed only from 11:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

Shortly after 7:00 p.m., Saturday, Ernest Rocquemoire, aged 19, was shot in the back and killed by an Army paratrooper as he fled from a police raid on an Eastside flat. According to the Detroit Free Press account of this incident, the paratrooper was cleared of any wrong-doing by the prosecutor's office. It was ruled that Rocquemoire's death was a justifiable homicide that had occurred when the Negro youth ran into the line of fire between the paratrooper and an unknown man fleeing with a gun. The police reported that as they mounted the porch steps they saw through the screen door, a young Negro with a brown paper bag in one hand and a chrome plated revolver in the other.

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They stormed into the house and fired at least three shotgun blasts at the screaming crowd inside--a group of about a dozen. The paratroopers who had remained outside the house near the police cars upon hearing the shots, ran along the side of the house to the back door just as the young people were spilling out of the house. As someone shouted "Watch it, that man has a gun coming out of the door," the soldiers observed what they thought was a chrome revolver and began firing at the man. It was at this point that Rocquemore was shot. A 16 year old boy, who has never been questioned by the police, claims that he was the youth on the front stairs when officers arrived and that what he carried was not a revolver, but a transistor radio trimmed in shiny metal and topped with a chrome-plated antenna.