

On Streets of Chicago

Many Clergy Assisted Protesters

Chicago—(RNS)—Clergymen of Chicago's North Side were not at home watching the National Democratic Convention on television as the party met in the International Amphitheatre. They walked the streets aiding and counseling thousands of youths who had converged on the city.

The clergy activity was focused primarily in Lincoln and Grant parks where the young people clashed with policemen and, at times, National Guardsmen.

Some of the churchmen charged police brutality. Father Raymond A. Schroth, S.J., of Washington, D.C., a former teacher at McQuaid High in Rochester, said he saw a boy pulled "very brutally" from a statue. He added that he admired the efforts of news reporters and photographers to continue their work during the conflicts despite beatings, he said, from police. Several newsmen received medical treatment after Lincoln Park melees.

"One of the best ways to control civil, which includes violence," Father Schroth said, "is to expose it. The threat of exposure is one of the great weapons free people have."

"Young people came to Chicago to be part of what's happening. They want a good stab at taking part in the democratic process before it goes. Really, the arrival of these dissenters is an act of hope. They didn't go to Miami because there was no hope in being present in that situation for them."

The project in which Father Schroth was participating was sponsored by the United Methodist Church, the United

Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church, U.S. (Southern). Its purpose was to conduct research on dissent.

Clergymen walked all night in teams, asking the youths to stay off the streets for safety's sake, keeping protest groups small and seeing that the injured received first aid.

The project was initiated by the North Side Cooperative Ministry, and its original purpose was to provide food, housing and medical assistance to the demonstrators who began filtering into Chicago days before the convention opened.

Four "Convention Mobilization Help Centers" were set up, a central communications center, a stationary first-aid base, housing and food centers and roving medical facilities.

Coordinators were the Rev. Lyle Frazer, an instructor at McCormick Theological Seminary, the Rev. Bruce Young

of the staff of the Presbytery of Chicago's urban program, the Rev. Duten Haver, a Methodist and copastor of the interdenominational Church of Three Crosses and the Rev. David Doring, executive director of the North Side Cooperation Ministry.

Nuns worked in the kitchens of food centers, and clergymen cooperated with the Medical Committee for Human Rights which was on hand to treat the injured.

The plan of the group to put ministers on the street was adopted at the convention opened. The Rev. Herb Davis of St. Paul's United Church of Christ explained that the decision was made "because on Sunday (Aug. 25) the police attack on protesters was so unbelievable we felt we had to call all the churches together to give what human aid we could."

Conflicts early in the convention were mostly in Lincoln Park vicinity. After police use of tear gas and

nightsticks in the park, clergymen associated with arm-ecumenical young adult research project protested.

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Honor for Belafonte

Chicago—(RNS)—The Catholic Interracial Council presented singer Harry Belafonte with a special award for "continuing commitment to the cause of interracial justice and brotherhood."

The presentation will be made following a CIC benefit Mr. Belafonte performed here.

John A. McDermott, executive director of the Catholic Interracial Council who announced the award, praised the Negro singer for "never letting his show business success divert him from a real concern for racial justice and problems of his less fortunate brothers."

Bishop Heads Race Unit

Chicago—(RNS)—Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson of Birmingham Ala., was named temporary chairman of the new United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race at an organizational meeting here.

The Rev. Woodie W. White of Detroit was chosen temporary secretary. The permanent officers and staff will be elected at a second meeting in November.

Authorized by the 1968 General Conference of the denomination, the commission was charged with a wide range of responsibilities. The mandate included aid in helping former all-white and all-black annual conferences to merge, encouraging integration in local congregations, seeking cooperation with Negro denominations, and coordinating Methodist support for "prophetic movements for racial and social justice."

The 34-member commission is composed of 15 Negroes, 14 whites, 2 persons of Japanese descent and 1 each of Mexican, Puerto Rican and Indian background.

Spokane Bishop Selling Residence

Spokane, Wash.—(NC)—The residence which has served every bishop of Spokane for the last 50 years is for sale; the money it brings will be used to aid the poor.

Bishop Bernard J. Topel disclosed the sale plan at a meeting of priests of the diocese. He estimated the sale will bring about \$20,000 and added this would be used as "seed money" for some "civic project for the poor and underprivileged."

The property was acquired by Bishop Augustine F. Schinner, first head of the diocese, in 1918.

Bishop Topel said he is moving to less expensive quarters and has been giving away some of the house furnishings to Regina Hall, a half-way house for girls, and to the cathedral.

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