

ATLANTA NEGROES RIOT AFTER POLICE WOUND A SUSPECT

Tear Gas and Gunfire Curt
Angry Crowd—Mayor Is
Topped From Auto

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ATLANTA, Sept. 6—Rioting Negroes fought the police with bricks and bottles today and toppled the city's Mayor from the roof of a car when he attempted to calm them.

The police quelled the violence by tossing canisters of tear gas and repeatedly firing pistols and riot guns above the heads of the Negroes.

At least a dozen Negroes, two of them members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the militant civil rights organization, were taken into custody by the police.

The disturbance was touched off in midafternoon after the police shot and seriously wounded a Negro who was suspected of car theft.

Cry for 'Black Power'

Within three hours of the shooting more than 400 Negroes, including several members of the student committee, were rushing through the streets, shouting "Black power—police brutality."

One police car was overturned and windows were smashed in several others.

When Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. rushed to the scene and climbed upon a police car to talk to the rioters, they surged toward him and rocked the car again and again until the Mayor, shaken but unharmed, tumbled to the street.

The 55-year-old Mayor scrambled to his feet and then raced about the riot area, which is only two blocks from the new \$18-million Atlanta Stadium.

"Go home," he pleaded. "Please go home."

"Don't go—stay here and protest police brutality," said members of the student committee, who walked behind the Mayor.

The police said Stokely Carmichael, the committee's 25-year-old chairman, had reached tree-lined Capitol Avenue soon after the shooting and told Negroes that "we're going to be back at 4 P.M. and tear this place up."

Two members of the student committee, Willie Ware and Bob Walton, were taken into custody by the police while touring the area in a sound truck, urging Negroes to gather to protest the shooting.

"They were bringing different people into the area," Sgt. D. J. Perry, a Negro police officer, told newsmen, "and they were saying that the man had been shot while handcuffed and that he was murdered by white police."

The police denied the accusations. The wounded man, Harold Louis Prather, was reported by a spokesman at Grady Memo-

Continued on Page 38, Column 2



ATLANTA MAYOR AT RIOT SCENE: Mayor Ivan Allen Jr., right, holding handkerchief after police used tear gas, gestures to Negro residents to enter their homes. Earlier, he had been toppled from a patrol car after he had mounted it to address an angry crowd.

ATLANTA NEGROES BATTLE POLICEMEN

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

rial Hospital to be in "poor condition."

'An Explosive Area'

"This is an explosive area and they [the police] come down here and shoot a Negro. Good God almighty," said Cleveland Sellers, the student committee's project and program director. "People here are just reacting to police brutality."

Other S.N.C.C. officials on Capitol Avenue during the rioting were Mrs. Ruby Doris Robinson, executive secretary of the committee, and Ivanhoe Donaldson, head of the organization's New York office.

In the beginning, the missile-throwing was sporadic. But after the police used tear gas to rout a group of bottle throwers, Negroes hurled volley after volley of bricks and bottles.

At one point, the police threw tear gas into a home, which they said had been a center of bottle throwing. A mother, her five small children and her grandmother were forced into the street.

The nearly hysterical mother, Mrs. Imogene Lindley, 22 years old, and the rest of her family, were taken to Grady Memorial Hospital in an ambulance.

Across the street from her house, a white sedan had been overturned and its windows smashed. A resident of the Negro district said that "some white fellows" had been in the car.

Three Negro men stood on the curb nearby and watched two white men walk past. The Negroes chant:

"It's gonna get dark after awhile."

The violence surprised Mayor Allen, one of the few Southern officials who has advocated civil rights legislation.

Except for tension in recent weeks between the police and advocates of the black power philosophy espoused by the student committee, Atlanta has fewer of the "police brutality" complaints that have heightened tension in other cities.

Atlanta desegregated its schools without incident five years ago under a Federal court order. Since then it has become known as one of the South's model cities in race relations. Atlanta Negroes hold nine seats in the state Legislature and freely patronize most of the city's restaurants, movies and nightclubs.

The rioting also stunned many of the city's Negro leaders. The Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., father of the civil rights leader, and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, an aide to the younger Dr. King, toured the area after dark to help head off any recurrence of the afternoon rioting.