



STREET STRIFE—An Atlanta policeman wearing a gasmask carries two children to safety from a Negro home filled with tear-gas, at left, while Mayor Ivan Allen stands on the roof of a police car at right as he attempts to disperse the angry crowd that gathered to protest a policeman's shooting of a suspect in the theft of an auto.

Associated Press

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Police Rout 1000 Rioters In Atlanta

onto the vehicle, apparently unhurt.

The rioters calmed down momentarily, but the disturbance started to spread again when a Negro man leaped atop another car and joined Allen in his plea for peace. About 15 Negroes pulled the Negro down and beat him.

It was then that Allen ordered the crowd dispersed.

"Tear all the houses down if necessary," said the usually mild-spoken Mayor. "I want the people dispersed. Tear the place up."

Allen gave the order calmly and without show of anger.

One police car was overturned at the height of the melee, and two others were badly damaged. The rioters also tried, but failed, to overturn two police paddy wagons.

The Negro car theft suspect, whose arrest touched off the violence, was identified as Harold Prather, 25. Police said they opened fire when Prather fled and ignored a warning to halt.

Although hit twice, Prather made it to his home and when police attempted to arrest him they found the way blocked by a large group of Negroes. The Negroes dispersed when reinforcements were summoned.

Later, Stokely Carmichael, chairman of SNCC, announced that there would be a demonstration in the Negro district to protest the arrest of Prather.

The crowd started gathering when a SNCC sound truck entered the area. Officers took the two men manning the truck into custody and charged them with operating the truck without a permit. The crowd tipped over the police cruiser and tried to overturn the wagon.

Up until this point, only 50 Negro officers had been on the scene, but 50 more policemen were summoned, including 30 Negro and 20 white officers.

The presence of white officers incensed the youths, who began shouting "Kill the white bastards, kill the white cops."

It was at this point that Mayor Allen arrived and tried to reason with the mob, but he was shouted down.

Following the riot, Allen held a street corner news conference and vowed that police would keep the peace. Asked why he came to the scene personally, the Mayor replied:

"I am concerned with the problems of Atlanta. Any leader has access to the Mayor and I would welcome an opportunity to talk."

Allen can take much of the credit for Atlanta's previous racial peace, and has had almost solid Negro support at the polls. He was one of the few Southerners to testify for the 1964 civil rights bill. He further integrated the Atlanta police force. He has held personal conferences with Negro



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SAVED—A weeping mother holds her child after police rescued five youngsters from a tear-gas-filled home during a brief outbreak of violence in Atlanta.

leaders and has worked to play down racial incidents.

Atlanta's schools were totally integrated. Business houses have many Negro employees. City facilities are totally integrated. The city has sent eight Negroes to the State legislature.

Only this morning, the progressive Mayor had welcomed Carmichael and about 20 of his supporters into his office for a conference. They came to protest alleged police brutality to SNCC members in the city jail.

The Rev. W. Clyde Williams

and seven other Negro ministers approached Allen after the riot and promised to collect grievances and discuss them with Allen.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., father of the nationally known integration leader who makes his home in Atlanta, urged Negroes to stay in their homes.

"Nothing can be gained by this," he warned. "What do they want? The Mayor came down. He tried to speak to them. They wouldn't listen... What do they want?"

1000 Riot After Arrest in Atlanta; Mayor Is Felled Pleading With Mob

By Ann Mohr

ATLANTA, Sept. 6 (UPI) — Police routed about 1000 rioting Negroes with tear gas and warning shotgun blasts today after they attacked officers with rocks and bottles and knocked

the mayor, who was pleading for peace, to the ground.

Officers chased the fleeing Negroes down side streets, hurling tear gas canisters at their heels.

At least 25 persons were ar-

rested and nine injured, including five Negro children in a tear-gassed building and a white boy cut when his father's car was stoned.

The outburst was touched off after police wounded a Negro suspected of car theft.

Leaders of the militant Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee were in the forefront of the melee.

State troopers and all off-duty city policemen were summoned to help deal with the racial outburst—the worst this progressive Southern city has experienced in modern times.

Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. climbed atop a car in the riot-torn Negro district to try and reason with the crowd, but was greeted with taunts of “white devil” and “black power.”

The Mayor was finally toppled from his perch when the crowd surged against the car, knocking him off. He landed in a kneeling position on the pavement, but climbed back

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