

Weather

Warm, Showers
High 85, Low 67
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Atlanta Mayor Faults SNCC for Rioting

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — Mayor Ivan Allen jr. charged Wednesday that Student Nonviolent Co-ordinating Committee members were directly responsible for Tuesday night's rioting that shattered Atlanta's image of racial harmony.

Allen told a news conference that the disorders "were the result of a deliberate attempt by certain members of SNCC to create an incident of this kind."

The silver-haired mayor,

who climbed on top of a car and tried to calm the jeering, angry Negroes during the disorder, said:

"If Stokely Carmichael (national chairman of SNCC) is looking for a battleground, he created one last night, and he'll be met in whatever situation he cares to create."

Carmichael, along with other SNCC members, was in the area before the rioting began, but he was not seen there later.

Officers said SNCC representatives urged the

crowd to demonstrate and denounced police officers as they chanted "black power."

Seventy-two persons were arrested and 15 injured during the outbreak — the worst the city has experienced in modern times — which broke out after a white policeman shot a Negro wanted on a car theft charge.

Police arrested 10 persons at the riot scene Wednesday after a crowd gathered and began passing leaflets and shouting

"black power." Officers ordered the crowd to disperse and those who refused were taken away in paddy wagons. Order was quickly restored.

"The spark of violence ignited by a few reckless and irresponsible individuals touched off an explosion of civil disorder that shattered Atlanta's long and outstanding record of racial amity," the mayor said.

"From what I heard with my own ears and saw with

my own eyes in the middle of this melee, I feel certain that hundreds of normally good citizens were inflamed out of their normal good senses. They were victimized by those who sought to incite violence."

Referring to recent charges by SNCC members of police brutality, Allen said, hitting a clinched fist on the table for emphasis:

"No one need make charges to me about police brutality during this disorder. I saw plenty of brutality,

but it was all directed against the police officers."

In a separate news conference Wednesday, Police Chief Herbert Jenkins said SNCC officials include "irresponsible and hoodlum leaders" and that its rank and file consists "mostly of criminals, hoodlums and outlaws of all types."

Jenkins said the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee "is now the nonstudent violent committee. And we must and will deal with it accordingly."



Stokely Carmichael



Mayor Ivan Allen