

State of North Carolina

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ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Department of Motor Vehicles
State Highway Patrol
Raleigh

7 June 1963

MEMORANDUM TO: Governor Terry Sanford, Governor's Office, State Capitol, Raleigh, North Carolina

SUBJECT: Report On Racial Incidents, Greensboro, 6 June 1963,
Received From Captain A. W. Welch

At approximately 5:00 p.m., 6 June 1963, Captain A. W. Welch reported that Chief Paul Calhoun of the Greensboro Police Department had been in contact with him to advise that trouble was expected at Greensboro later in the evening. Chief Calhoun stated that subject Jesse Jackson, the A & T student who has been most active in racial integration activity, was arrested at noon on a warrant charging inciting a riot. The Chief further stated that the Negro element planned a mass protest against Jackson's arrest. Captain Welch further stated that Chief Calhoun expected a situation to develop whereby the Greensboro Police Department would need assistance from the Highway Patrol. In response to this information, Captain Welch alerted 50 Highway Patrolmen to the Greensboro Patrol Station.

At 7:25 p.m., Captain Welch reported that approximately 1,000 Negroes were marching from the church where they met toward the downtown area. He stated they were swaying, waving their arms and singing, "If Jackson goes to jail, we will go too." At 8:05 p.m., Captain Welch called again to advise that Chief Calhoun had requested immediate and active assistance from the Highway Patrol as approximately 800 Negroes were sitting in Jefferson Square, had been ordered to move and refused to do so. At this point, Captain Welch moved seven squads of seven men each into the city.

There were approximately 250 Negroes arrested on Jefferson Square and most of them were charged with blocking traffic. The arrested persons were loaded into city buses, squad cars and paddy wagons. It was reported that after they were loaded into the buses that they did considerable damage by cutting the interior of the buses.

At 9:00 p.m., Captain Welch reported that the Highway Patrol complement had cleared the city and that he had left two squads at the Coliseum to assist with the processing of the arrested Negroes until such time as the

Governor Terry Sanford

-2-

7 June 1963

Greensboro policemen were available to relieve them. Captain Welch stated that most of the Negroes were still sitting in Jefferson Square at the time the Patrol arrived, however, when the Highway Patrol was observed, most of them got up and got back on the sidewalks.

At 10:35 p.m., Captain Welch called again to state that he had released all the Highway Patrolmen and the situation had returned to normal.

DAVID T. LAMBERT, COLONEL
COMMANDING
STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

C.R.Wm/CP
C. Raymond Williams, Major
Director, Enforcement Division

AWW:mc

cc: Mr. Tom Lambeth
 Mr. Graham Jones
Mr. Hugh Cannon
Mr. Edward Scheidt