

State of North Carolina



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ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Department of Motor Vehicles
State Highway Patrol

Headquarters, Troop B
Fayetteville, North Carolina
14 June 1963

MEMORANDUM TO: Colonel David T. Lambert
Commanding
State Highway Patrol
Raleigh, North Carolina

Attention: Major C. Raymond Williams

SUBJECT: Racial Situation, Fayetteville, 13 June 1963

1. The following report was made to this office by Sergeant R. F. Williamson:

Demonstrators from Fayetteville State Teachers College began demonstrations today at 4:00 P.M.. Approximately 300 students were involved in this demonstration. At approximately 4:00 P.M. a "team" of approximately 16 students stationed themselves at the Carolina Soda Shop which is located on Hay Street next to the Carolina Theater. Others were at the theaters, except the Miracle which has a restraining order to show cause, etc., and at restaurants. At approximately 4:05 P.M., Mrs. Bill Crawley came out of the soda shop to gather up papers which were left beside the Soda Shop and adjacent to the sidewalks. It is alleged that as she started to pick up the papers a Negro female demonstrator pushed her and as Mrs. Crawley raised up, she pushed back the demonstrator. The demonstrator is alleged to have slapped Mrs. Crawley in the face after the pushing incident. Mrs. Crawley is approximately 48 years of age. This incident was witnessed by Captain Melvin of the Fayetteville Police Department. Captain Melvin "grabbed" the girl to place her under arrest and at this time another male demonstrator, Willis McLeod, Fayetteville Teachers College and a native of Dillon, South Carolina, grabbed Captain Melvin by the arm. This was witnessed by two police officers who immediately grabbed McLeod and placed him under arrest for assault and resisting arrest. McLeod, including this arrest, has been arrested three times. He is supposed to be the leader of the demonstrators. The female demonstrator was also arrested for assault. The two were taken

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to the City Hall. While they were being processed, the demonstrators began a march down Hay Street, picking up demonstrators along the route. When they arrived at City Hall, all were present. Upon arrival at City Hall, they lined the sidewalks in front of the building on Green Street and around the side to the entrance of the Police Station. They chanted and sang their usual songs.

After approximately one hour at City Hall, they marched to a nearby Church where a meeting was held. They came back on Hay Street at approximately 7:00 P.M. and began their demonstrations at all restaurants on Hay Street, the Carolina Soda Shop included, and all the theaters except the Miracle. In the meantime, a large number of white people began to line the street, especially near the corner where the Carolina Soda Shop is located. At approximately 7:30 P.M., some unknown subject threw a tear gas bomb (U. S. Army type) into the demonstrators causing them to become disorganized at this location. The demonstrators began to run down the street (Hay Street). As they picked up other demonstrators along the way, it seems to me that they became a "mob". They have usually traveled two abreast but they were taking up most of the sidewalks on this occasion causing other people to move out of the path. This information was given to me by Captain McLaurin.

There were 18 arrests and 20 charges which are as follow:

Assault - 7
Assault and resisting arrest - 1
State Fire Law Violation - 8 (blocking exits to public buildings -
i.e., at restaurants)
Interfering with an officer - 1

Three charges of assault on an officer were made because of the following incident:

It seems that the demonstrators bumped into a police officer. The officer told them he had a right to be there; that he was on duty, etc.. The demonstrators came back and three bumped him - one behind the other. He caught one by the arm and two other officers caught the other two. I do not know at this time the facts concerning the other arrests.

One subject was arrested at the Donut Shop on the Boulevard. Some demonstrators stopped there and were served; however, a larger group came back and the management asked them to leave and called the police. As the police arrived, a subject took off in an automobile and was arrested for speeding, stop sign violation, and loitering and loafing. He was one of the demonstrators.

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A large number of white people were on Hay Street during the demonstrations. Several "gangs" were observed ranging from 20 to 30 years of age. They did not get out of line; however, their presence was a constant concern to the police. Most of the people were curious and observing. The street was filled with heavy traffic until 9:30 P.M..

I arrived at the Police Station at approximately 9:45 P.M.. Approximately 25 people were at and near the station. The Negroes were making bonds and leaving for another meeting called after the gassing incident. I do not know, nor does the police, what their plans are for tomorrow. It is generally agreed that they are "stirred up", and it is my opinion that tonight the leadership of the movement was lost to a "mob". One reason for this opinion is because L. E. Garris, a leader in this movement and Dr. Allen's son, was making bonds for all the demonstrators. L. E. Garris is an undertaker here in Fayetteville. He refused to sign McLeod's bond and at this time (11:30 P.M.) McLeod is still in jail. Garris said, according to Captain McLaurin, that McLeod had to go; that he did not approve of his actions, etc..

Captain McLaurin advised me that the leaders of this movement had called the F.B.I. in Charlotte and reported police brutality by members of the Fayetteville Police Department. Captain McLaurin stated that the F.B.I. had observed all demonstrations in Fayetteville and were observing demonstrations on this day. He denied that there has been any police brutality since the movement began. It was also stated that a group of these leaders met with officials at Pope Field on 13 June and reported mishaviour by Military Police assigned to the Fayetteville area. The leaders alleged that the Military Police were molesting the girl demonstrators and requested that Fayetteville be placed "Off Limits" for all military personnel. No action has been taken on this complaint. Most restaurant owners on Hay Street are getting restraining orders drawn up by their attorneys and I understand that they will be served, possibly today, on the demonstrators. This is an effort to relieve the picketing at their places of business. This was done after the success of the restraining order signed by Judge Mallard against picketing at the Miracle Theater. Since that time, no one has picketed the Miracle Theater.

Sheriff Clark and Captain McLaurin were in the Police Station and in conference. They invited me in and Captain McLaurin stated Chief Worrell had asked him to contact the Patrol and have the Patrol alert the men in this area for tomorrow. I advised Captain McLaurin that the Police and the Sheriff had to exhaust all their means before we would be allowed to come in to Fayetteville.

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He stated he was only passing on the request from Chief Worrell. He stated Chief Worrell was at the bedside of his Mother-in-Law who had a heart attack today. Captain McLaurin stated Chief Worrell would call Captain Brown Friday morning. Sheriff Clark advised Captain McLaurin that he was willing and ready to assist and that he and his staff had been standing by for three weeks, and he was sworn to protect property in Cumberland County and if he were called in he felt he had an obligation to protect the property of the people who operate their businesses on Hay Street. (It was obvious that Sheriff Clark's views on enforcement during the demonstrations are contrary to the manner in which the city has been operating. For instance, today the police were instructed not to make or to allow anyone to sign a warrant for trespass. Sheriff Clark insists that his County Attorney and Judge Mallard have instructed him to make arrests.)

I personally do not know how to measure the tension which exists in Fayetteville. Most of the people I saw and talked with after the demonstration were orderly. If the tension is high - which Sheriff Clark and Captain McLaurin indicates - it is because of the slapping incident involving Mrs. Bill Crawley. It seems that the demonstrators are determined to picket the Carolina Soda Shop. Mr. Crawley has been operating the business for approximately 30 years and I remember that 18 or 19 years ago Mr. Crawley had trouble with a Negro at his business and Mr. Crawley was seriously stabbed by the Negro and almost died. Mr. and Mrs. Crawley are determined, and six arrests have been made at this place this week. Mr. Crawley is rather popular with the townsfolk, and years ago he did have a high temper.

The slapping incident got out of proportion after making the rounds. Many people were saying that she was slapped by a man, slapped, and kicked, etc.. This, in my opinion, caused the tension and the gas-throwing incident.

Thomas B. Brown

THOMAS B. BROWN
CAPTAIN

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