

THE SABOTAGE OF CHICAGO

It is not enough that Martin Luther King and his "nonviolent" marchers have brought violence, resentment, and global notoriety to Chicago. On top of all this, according to Police Supt. O. W. Wilson, they are largely to blame for a 25 per cent increase in the city's crime rate.

The police feel obliged to protect them. It has been their deliberate tactic to disperse the police force so that it is spread too thin to be effective anywhere. They feign a march in one area and then in another. They show up in several places at once. They threaten to march into a tinderbox section of Cicero and then postpone the march with the explanation that they have lost "the element of surprise."

They have disregarded Mayor Daley's plea for enough advance notice so that the police can deploy themselves effectively. Obviously, the police can't do their regular job properly, as the mayor said, "when they have to guess where the next marches will be held." If Supt. Wilson knew what was planned, he could cancel days off and augment his force by 1,600 men. But still there is no money to pay for overtime and the days off would have to be paid back later. The protection gap would remain.

With the police thus tied up, it is natural that professional criminals and hoodlums should take advantage of the opportunity to prey upon the public in their own manner. Nor is it irrelevant to note that there were 72 murders in Chicago in July — an all-time record for any month.

Why the deliberate lack of cooperation? Why the need for surprise? The only reason for the demonstrators to hamper the police is to create the disorder and publicity which the marchers apparently think will help their cause. King himself said, upon being struck by a rock, that he had to march in order "to bring this hate into the open." The marchers are doing just what his aid, the Rev. James Bevel, said a year ago that they intended to do. "We're coming up this way," he said, "to create confusion and disturb the peace."

These "rights" leaders and the foggy clergymen who abet them on are not heroes. For all their pious protestations of nonviolence, they are working hand in glove with the criminal element to create confusion and turbulence and to compound the danger to Chicagoans. They can no longer even pretend to be ignorant of this link.

Chicago has already paid too high a price for this deliberate campaign of sabotage. Causing violence to achieve political ends is criminal syndicalism, a statutory crime in many states. There are other laws, in addition, against inciting violence. If the marchers keep up their sabotage, it will be time to indict the whole lot of them.