

# Detroit Is Swept by Rioting and Fires; Romney Calls In Guard; 700 Arrested



Associated Press Wirephoto

National Guardsmen called to Detroit move through residential area set afire by rioters

## Negroes in Detroit Defy Curfew and Loot Wide Area

By The Associated Press

DETROIT, Monday, July 24  
— Thousands of rampaging  
Negroes firebombed and looted  
huge sections of Detroit last  
night and early today. Gov.  
George Romney ordered 1,500  
National Guardsmen, backed by  
tanks, to quell the riot.

Violence spread uncontrolled  
over most sections of the city.  
Destructive fury swept along  
three-mile and four-mile sec-  
tions of streets crisscrossing  
the heart of Detroit and rang-  
ing seven miles outward almost  
to the city limits.

A warm, sultry wind fanned  
scores of fires, and in at least  
one area the fire ranged in a  
solid sheet for more than 10  
blocks.

[At least four persons were  
reported killed, according to  
United Press International.]

The police arrested more  
than 600 adults and 100 juve-  
niles.

But thousands more ignored  
a curfew of 9 P.M. to 5:30 A.M.  
imposed by Mr. Romney and  
Detroit's Mayor, Jerome P.  
Cavanagh. Officials ordered all  
schools closed today.

"It looks like a city that has  
been bombed," Mr. Romney  
said while sweeping by helicop-

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ter over areas laid to waste by looters and arsonists.

Scores were injured, many from stabbings, but no deaths were reported early today. Sporadic gunfire was heard in the city.

A first wave of 700 National Guardsmen, 200 State Police troopers and 600 Detroit policemen failed to slow the outbreak.

Destruction spread from a West Side area where it began early yesterday and ignited flareups throughout the day and night that reached into East Side neighborhoods.

The trouble began when the police raided a "blind pig," or after hours drinking spot, on 12th Street near Clairmount and arrested 73 persons.

Mr. Romney declared a state of public emergency in Detroit and its two self-contained suburbs, Highland Park and Hamtramck.

He ordered sales halted on all liquor, beer and other alcoholic beverages as groups of Negroes grabbed liquor from stores and drank beer on some of the city's main streets.

"The disturbance is still not under control," the Governor said shortly before midnight.

The police at first were ordered to withhold gunfire, but Mr. Cavanagh said later: "Their safety is at stake, and if they must return fire, it must be."

A battalion of 800 National Guardsmen was ordered from Grand Rapids, 150 miles northwest of Detroit, to assist the 700 on duty as Mr. Romney declared the riot out of control.

Helicopters equipped with floodlights and manned by officers armed with submachineguns whirled through the fire-streaked darkness in search of rooftop snipers.

Mr. Romney said, "It's a case of lawlessness and hoodlumism and apparently not organized. Disobedience to the law cannot and will not be tolerated in Michigan."

"I will supply whatever manpower the city needs to handle the situation."

Fires raged through tenement buildings, businesses and individual residences in a mile-square section of the city's near West Side. More fires erupted in the Northwest Side.

National Guardsmen and state troopers encircled various police stations.

Inside, officers scurried up and down hallways with armloads of .38-caliber ammunition for police revolvers.

The police, however, were ordered to hold their fire. This apparently was the reason that injuries were kept to a minimum and no deaths were reported.

Fifteen of the injured were policemen, who, throughout the day-long disturbance, gave ground to the Negroes and ignored most looting.

As National Guardsmen rolled into areas of violence in Army trucks and city-owned buses, violence sprang ahead of them, surging into new areas.

The police, meanwhile, brought in carloads of guns picked up from gun stores and pawn shops in and around the riot areas and throughout the downtown section near police headquarters.

The headquarters itself was ringed with armed policemen.

Great clouds of smoke from flaming tenements and shattered businesses and homes lay over much of the city as dusk came, and the smell of smoke pervaded the night air.

A four-mile section of Woodward was plundered by looters, and a three-mile section of Grand River was hit by looting and firebombing, which raged along 18 blocks of 12th Street.

A 20-block area of Grand River was almost solidly aflame.



Associated Press Wirephoto

Business establishments and private homes, the target of arsonists, burn in an area of Detroit affected by riots

During the violence along 12th Street, some looters raced past weary firemen and dropped off two six-packs of beer as a prankish gesture.

At one point, beleaguered firemen pulled out of the blazing areas, saying that they had insufficient protection from bricks, bottles and other debris thrown at them.

They left their hoses in the streets.

Block-long sections of tenements and small businesses went up in smoke.

Later, firemen moved back into the areas, sometimes with the protection of residents of the burning areas.

About 20 Negro members of one block club armed themselves with rifles and deployed around firefighters to protect them from harassment.

"They say they need protection," said Lennon Moore, one of the block club members, "and we're damn well going to give it to them."

The outbreak was the worst in Detroit since the city's race riots in 1943. Major parks, including Belle Isle, an island park, where the 1943 riot began, were closed this afternoon.

Looters roamed freely within swirls of smoke in the embattled area, carrying clothes, lamps, golf bags and other goods from flaming shops and stores with their fronts bashed in.

Detroit policemen were ordered on 24-hour duty.

## Many Negroes Angry

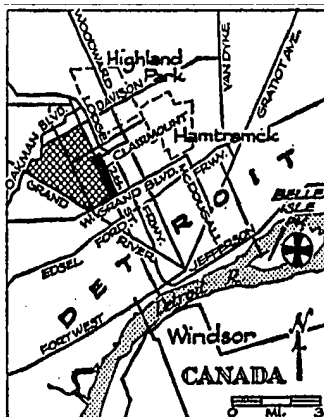
Special to The New York Times

DETROIT, July 23—Many of the Negroes in the area were angry at the violence, but still appeared eager to protect those they called their "brothers" from the police, and many predicted more serious trouble in the future.

One Negro tore open his shirt showing scars on his chest and arm. "I got that in a Negro burglary suspect. Be-Germany," he said. "I was in Korea, too. I'm 42, and I can't get a job."

This morning, many of the city's Negro leaders were in the area trying to talk to people. They included Hubert Locke, a Deputy Police Commissioner;

Charles Tindal, executive secretary of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Charles Diggs and John Conyers, Detroit's two Negro Congressmen, and Daman Keith.



The New York Times July 24, 1967

Shaded section shows area of most rioting, which began on 12th Street (heavy line). City shut Belle Isle (cross), scene of 1943 riots.

chairman of the State Civil Rights Commission.

Most of the leaders were ignored, however, Mr. Locke said.

The area of the trouble, 12th Street, is a business street that runs up the center of a Negro neighborhood about four miles from Detroit's downtown. The area is within sight of the General Motors Building.

Around 12th street are residential areas that are generally neat and attractive but overcrowded.

But 12th Street is a dirty street of small stores, pawn shops, bars and clothing stores. It is known as a street of crime and prostitution.

## Birmingham Alert

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 23

(UPI)—More than 100 extra-duty state troopers remained on standby alert today after they and National Guardsmen halted the first major outbreak of Negro violence here since 1963.

About 200 Negro youths went on a looting, rock-tossing rampage last night after a white policeman had wounded a Negro burglary suspect. Before the rioting was over, at least 11 persons were injured, more than 70 arrested, dozens of store windows shattered and streets in a six-block area littered with debris.

The 400 National Guardsmen were relieved early today as Mayor Albert Boutwell expressed guarded optimism that the possibility of further violence had been "nipped in the bud."

As an extra precaution, however, all police holidays were

canceled, and officers, armed with shotguns, patrolled the violence-scarred area.

## Windows Smashed

DES MOINES, Iowa, July 23

(UPI)—Large plate glass windows were smashed early today at three Des Moines business establishments in a predominantly Negro section, police said. No arrests were made.

## Disturbance in Kalamazoo

KALAMAZOO, Mich., July 23

(UPI)—Kalamazoo policemen, augmented by county township officers and the state police, quelled a disturbance involving 200 Negroes early today.

The police received a report at about 4 A.M. that a girl had been shot. Two policemen investigated and found a mob milling around.

They said they had attempted to help the victim, who had been shot in the arm, but that the mob moved in and a scuffle started.

## Minneapolis Is Quiet

MINNEAPOLIS, July 23 (AP)

—Police Chief Calvin Hawkinson announced reduction of National Guardsmen on duty at racially tense areas of the city today but said that a mobile force would be retained.

The reduction came following the second night of relative calm at Negro sections where there had been shootings, fire bombings and some looting. Fire department officials said that the 22 confirmed arson cases during the two days of violence had caused nearly \$1-million damage.