

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Committee Against Police Brutality in Detroit, Harlem, and Mississippi.
872-4688 - Frank Joyce

Plans were announced today by the Committee Against Police Brutality in Detroit, Harlem, and Mississippi for a massive demonstration at the main headquarters of the Detroit Police Department in downtown Detroit on Saturday July 25. The demonstration will begin at 2:00 PM and last until 10: PM.

The purpose of the demonstration is to dramatize recent police brutality and harrassment in Detroit, Harlem, and Mississippi.

Focus of the Detroit protest will be the beating on July 4th of an entire East side family. Three members of the family suffered broken bones at the hands of the police who attacked them, apparently without provocation. Mrs. Ruth Rembert had her arm broken by an officer because she asked why he was arresting her son. The son suffered a broken hand. Another 16 year old son, Ronald Tyson, had his arm broken when he attempted to restrain the policeman who was sitting on his mother's chest. All three were charged with felonious assault and detained for two days.

In addition to the July fourth incident Detroit Negroes are angered over the recent murder of West side youth, Clifford Allen, by a police officer. The youth was shot in the back of the head and killed by a police sergeant. The officer did not even return to the scene of the shooting until an hour after it occurred.

Saturday's demonstration is scheduled to coincide with one to be sponsored by the Harlem Action Group in Harlem at 2:00 Saturday.

Demonstrators will be urged to come whenever they have time during the eight hour "vigil."

The committee has a program of twelve demands which it wishes met in order to reduce tensions in the Negro ghetto.

Included are more Negro policemen, a citizens Police Review Board made up of citizens elected at the police precinct level, and an end to the Big Four, the dropping of charges against members of the Rembert Tyson family, sending of federal marshalls to Mississippi, and the resignation of Samuel Olsen, Wayne County Prosecutor.

Mrs. Geraldine Nelson, chairman of ACME (The Adult Community Movement for Equality) stated that "if the President could promise federal troops to beat Negroes in Harlem he could certainly send marshalls to Mississippi."

The demonstration is sponsored by:

The Adult Community Movement for Equality (ACME) and the Action Committee for Equality (ACE).

The demonstration is supported by:

Northern Student Movement (NSM), Congress On Racial Equality (CORE), Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), Group On Advance Leadership (GOAL), Detroit Friends of SNCC, University of Detroit NAACP, Allied Citizens Defense Committee (ACDC), and the Youth Committee for Deberry and Shaw.

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COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY * Detroit-Harlem-Mississippi

Demands:

1. A citizens police review Board with subpoena and disciplinary powers; to be made up of citizens elected at the police precinct level.
2. More Negro Policemen. (The present police force is approximately 3% Negro. The cities population is nearly 30% Negro.)
3. Drop charges against Mrs. Rembert and her sons Ronald and Eugene. Institute charges against the police officers involved.
4. Eliminate or integrate the Big Four. (The big four are plainclothes patrolmen who travel in expensive cars in groups of four. They are noted for their brutality and sadism particularly in Negro neighborhoods.)
5. Take troops out of Viet Nam and put them in Mississippi to protect civil rights workers carrying out lawful activities guaranteed under the constitution and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
6. The resignation of Samuel Olsen. (Wayne County Prosecutor Olsen has consistently demonstrated himself to be an enemy of Black people and the civil rights Movement. He invariably supports the police, despite their brutality toward citizens. He takes advantage of every opportunity to prosecute civil rights workers whether they have committed a crime or not.)
7. The suspension of officers Paul Bennett, Jerry Thompson, Theodore Spicher, Kenneth Ray, Cerber, Paul Funk, and Charles Archibald. These officers have shown repeatedly by their behaviour toward Negroes and civil rights demonstrators that they are unfit to be policemen.
8. Repeal the loitering ordinance or cease its enforcement. There should be no such crime as loitering-- this is ostensibly a free country and people should be able to stand on street corners and talk to their friends without fear of arrest. The loitering is often used to harrass Negroes. Police arrest Negroes for loitering when they are not guilty of any real crime.

9. Repayment of damages to the offices of the Northern Student Movement at 7625 Mack. (On April 13, a peaceful meeting of the Adult Community Movement for Equality was raided by police officers who did more than \$400.00 damage to the building. The group was evicted as a result. Police intimidation of owners of buildings on Mack has prevented the group from obtaining office space in the neighborhood.)

10. Strengthen the police Community Relations Department. (It is reported that out of 25 cases referred to the department in 1963, investigation showed the citizen to be justified and the police officers wrong in all twenty-five cases. In none of the cases was disciplinary action taken against the police. The department must be given disciplinary powers if it is to be effective.)

11. Mental tests for police. All prospective policemen should be tested to determine whether they are stable, mature, and psychologically qualified to be policemen. Particularly, they should be tested to determine whether they are responsible, have regard for the rights and lives of others, and whether they have sadistic tendencies.

12. Beat walkers should not carry guns, they have proven in the past not to need them and not able to use them wisely and responsibly. British police do not carry guns at all.