

# Detroit Anti-Negro Outbreak Probed

*PM's Bureau*

WASHINGTON, Mar. 4. — Detroit's Mayor Edward Jeffries is expected to confer with U. S. housing officials today on the future of the Sojourner Truth housing project, where angry whites Saturday attacked Negro tenants when they tried to move in.

It is understood that the Justice Dept. has assigned an agent to investigate charges that Ku Klux Klan elements inspired the attack. Charges of Klan activity were laid before Justice officials yesterday by a Detroit delegation, including Walter Hardin, representative of the CIO's United Auto Workers Union (UAW); the Rev. Charles Hill and Le Bron Simmons, attorney. The delegation also met with Leon Kayserling, acting Commissioner of the Federal Public Housing Authority.

Government housing officials here are said to feel the issue now rests in Mayor Jeffries's hands and that adequate police protection would enable the Negroes to move in. Whether Jeffries agrees with this view is not known, but the officials are reported unwilling to sanction any further anti-Negro demonstrations.

Negro leaders in Detroit, including the Rev. Horace A. White, Negro member of the city's Housing Authority, assert that the police took the side of the white pickets in the rioting Saturday. They insist that the homes should immediately be opened to the Negro defense workers for whom they were built, with real police protection provided.

Authoritative reports reaching here indicate that the anti-Negro hysteria has been incited by a weird combination of Klan sympathizers and Polish Catholic workers. The only religious leaders who have failed to uphold the Negro's right to tenancy are the Polish Catholic priests in that area.

As evidence of Klan involvement in the affair, the Detroit group asserted yesterday that crosses had been burned in the vicinity of the project and that a secret Klan meeting was held the night before the rioting.

In its conference with Kayserling yesterday the Detroit delegation challenged claims that the project was situated in "white territory." They pointed out that 46 per cent of the students in a school across the street from the project are Negroes.