

The Chicago Scene - August 28, 1968

By BRUCE S. COMPTON

Massed across the street from the Conrad Hilton Hotel (Democratic Headquarters) in Chicago's Grant Park, were an estimated 10,000 demonstrators who were listening to intermittent harangues by would-be revolutionaries from loudspeakers.

According to the August 30th "Chicago Tribune" "The voices on the loudspeakers in the park were those of Tom Hayden, a founder of the radical Students for a Democratic Society who reduced Columbia University to a shambles last spring; David Dellinger, self-styled non-Soviet Communist, who organized the march on the Pentagon last October; and Jerry Rubin, head of the Youth International Party (a Communist Youth organization also known as the ' Y i p p i e s '). These revolutionaries came to Chicago with the design of disrupting the Democratic Convention and taking over the streets."

The sheep who sat and listened to Hayden and the others carried Vietcong flags and the black flag of the Anarchists. Throughout the day, members of the mob harassed Chicago police.

That night, the mob surged forth from Grant Park and assaulted the police and National Guardsmen stationed around the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Throwing lye, carbon tetrachloride, naptha, bottles, bricks, molotov cocktails, obscenities, and saliva into police ranks, the demonstrators "blocked street intersections and tried to charge into hotels." (Chicago Tribune - Aug. 30.)

The police responded to these attacks in a manner similar to that of a man who is assaulted by a rabid dog. Unfortunately, and perhaps inevitably, many innocent onlookers and non-violent demonstrators were clubbed by the beleaguered police who responded to attack from all sides. Police, it must be remembered, are human beings; human beings under fear and

attack often make mistakes.

Arrests followed and many of the violent demonstrators were hauled off in police vans. Rumor has it that militant demonstrators had hoped to touch off a massive race riot in the city, but were unsuccessful.

By provocation of police in front of newsmen and T.V. cameras, the demonstrators

succeeded in bringing police counterattacks rather than their own violent attacks, to public attention. The police guaranteed press hostility by inadvertently clubbing several newsmen.

Perhaps the uninvited revolutionaries will now look elsewhere than to Chicago for the place to make their next move.