

16 Rabbis Arrested as Pool Dive-In Sets Off St. Augustine Rights Clash



Associated Press Wirephoto
Policeman dives into pool at the Monson Motor Lodge in St. Augustine, Fla., to arrest the civil rights demonstrators

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ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., June 18—A swimming pool dive-in that occurred as a group of integrationists were being pushed away from a segregated restaurant set off new violence here today. There was cursing and push-

ing, and authorities roughed up some of the demonstrators. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the leader of the civil rights movement here, watched from across the street. "It was raw police brutality," he said. "Cattle prods were used on our demonstrators and people were

actually beaten." Forty-one persons, including 16 rabbis, were arrested during the day. No one was seriously injured. A few hours after the outbreak at the Monson Motor Lodge, the St. Johns County grand jury proposed a 30-day cooling-off period during which there would be no dem-

onstrations and Dr. King would leave town. After 30 days, the grand jury would name a biracial committee to negotiate a truce. Dr. King immediately rejected the grand jury proposal and said demonstrations would be resumed

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DEMONSTRATION IN ST. AUGUSTINE: James Brock, manager of the Monson Motor Lodge in the Florida city, leads civil rights demonstrator to the police after a group of Negroes and whites attempted to enter restaurant.

16 RABBIS SEIZED IN ST. AUGUSTINE

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immediately. He said the jury asked the Negroes to make concessions but made no demands of the whites, who have been holding demonstrations of their own.

Tonight, 165 Negroes and a few whites marched through a white residential area and by Monson's.

Hosea Williams of Savannah, Ga., leader of the march, stopped the procession and started to speak. Sheriff L. O. Davis interrupted, "You came out here to march, so march."

When Mr. Williams refused to move the sheriff arrested him on a charge of disobeying an officer and he was carried off to jail.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which Dr. King is president, has been conducting demonstrations in the nation's oldest city for four weeks. The demonstrators are demanding desegregation of public accommodations, appointment of a biracial committee and hiring of more Negroes by the city.

The demonstrations have been marked by sporadic violence. This, however, had been brought under control last week by 145 State Police sent here by Gov. Farris Bryant.

St. Johns County and city police were involved in the swimming-pool incident. The dive-in was a ruse that caught authorities and the enraged motel owner by surprise.

About 70 demonstrators, including the rabbis who arrived here yesterday to help in the movement, descended on Monson's at noon. They were led by the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, a Birmingham, Ala., integration leader and associate of Dr. King, and the Rev. C. T. Vivian of Atlanta, another King aide.

Also arrested with the rabbis was a lay member of the group.

James Brock, manager of the motel and president of the Florida Hotel and Motel Association, was angry when they arrived. Monson's has been the focal point of demonstrations since Easter week.

He met the demonstrators outside the restaurant, a few feet from the swimming pool.

"This is private property and

I will have to ask you to leave," Mr. Brock said.

When the demonstrators refused to do so, he began pushing. First he pushed the leaders and one by one he pushed the rabbis. As one rabbi was pushed aside another would step forward to take his place.

A crowd of white businessmen and townspeople stood by and shouted. A spokesman said they were angry because state troopers did not arrest the demonstrators who had conducted a prayer service outside the motel last night.

While everyone's attention was directed to the scene in front of the restaurant, five Negroes in swim suits jumped out of an automobile and dived into the pool. They joined two white men, also members of the civil rights movement, who were registered guests.

Mr. Brock quickly fetched two containers of muriatic acid, a cleaning agent, and poured them into the pool.

The demonstrators stayed in the water despite the acid, which is harmless, and refused orders to leave. A police officer, Henry Billitz, dived in and forced them out. Several other officers seized them, clubbed them and thoroughly roughed them up.

The 16 rabbis, the swimmers, the two leaders of the march and nine other demonstrators were taken to jail to join the more than 200 persons arrested earlier in sit-ins.

Later in the afternoon, eight more would-be swimmers arrived in bathing suits and were arrested before they could reach the pool.

The rabbis arrested in the demonstration were:

Eugene Borowitz of New York, professor of theology; Hebrew Union College, U. S. Institute of Religion; Balfour Brickner, New York, director of the Commission on Interstate Activities, Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Also, Joel Goor, San Diego; Norman Hirsh, Seattle; Joseph Herzog, Sharon, Pa.; Eugene Lipman, Washington; Murray Saltzman, New York; Michael Robinson, Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y.; Mickey Sills, Milwaukee.

Also, Daniel Fogel, Rosyn, L. I.; Allen Secher, Butler, Pa.; Leon Jick, Mount Vernon; Byron Rubenstein, Westport, Conn.; Jerrold Goldstein, St. Paul; Richard Levy, Springfield, N. J.; Israel Dressner, Springfield, N. J.

The group also included Albert Vorsphn, director of the Commission on Social Action, University of American Hebrew Congregations. Mr. Vorsphn is a layman.