

1968 Unrest

News Clippings of 1968 State-wide Unrest

1968

Delaware State News

March 28, 1968



Live-in Stalls Kent Meeting

From the Dover Bureau

DOVER — Directors of the Kent County Community Action agency could not meet in Legislative Hall last night because the Senate and House had closed the building.

Deputy State Custodian William Harper told the agency's executive director, Paul Settles, and six directors they could not enter the building.

State and Dover police guarded the building into the night after about 50 demonstrators were ejected from the building yesterday afternoon.

Settles said the agency's routine board meeting would probably be held next week.

Eve. Journal
March 28, 1968

March 28, 1968

Terry Praises Police As New Protest Readies

The General Assembly reconvened in Dover this afternoon as Delaware State College demonstrators and sit-ins converged on Legislative Hall and Delaware State Police and National Guardsmen stood by to quell any disturbance.

Gov. Charles L. Terry, in a statement issued this morning, praised the State Police for their efficiency in handling yesterday's near-riot and warned that they "stand ready today to serve where and when called ... to protect their fellow man."

About 50 National Guardsmen reportedly were on alert at the Dover Armory as the demonstrators gathered to attempt to force the legislature to pass a welfare appropriation which would stave off a cut in welfare checks next month.

A token force of about 20 State Police officers and troopers was on hand, but another 30 were ready to move in if needed.

Yesterday's crowd of about 150 welfare recipients who staged a "live in" at Legislative Hall today was expected to at least double, swelled by students from Delaware State Col-

lege. The students began their march on the legislative building this morning after a rally.

By noon, all doors at Legislative Hall were closed and locked except the front entrance.

The basement switchboard and telephone exchange was sealed off and locked to guard against any disruption of communications between and among state agencies. The operators were on duty, however.

The welfare demonstrators — most women, children and young men — were expected to again clog stairways, hallways and offices as the legislators gathered.

There were reports that many legislators, fearful for their own safety and angered by yesterday's demonstration, planned to boycott today's session.

Terry in his statement urged all citizens of the state to allow the legislators to "get on with their work."

"I want to say here and now, confident that I speak with full concurrence of all members of the General Assembly, that the

people of Delaware are welcome to Legislative Hall at all times but in coming they accept an obligation to act responsibly and in such a way as to not interfere with the legislators or those working in the building," Terry said.

"The general assembly, quite rightly, ordered Legislative Hall cleared of all people at the close of business yesterday and it is unfortunate that State Police had to physically remove a handful of people unwilling to abide by the resolution passed by the legislature.

"I want to emphasize that only a handful of people were involved. Police are to be commended for their exemplary behavior. Throughout a trying day yesterday they used patience, forbearance, restraint, and kindness under agitation.

"They performed their difficult job with the efficiency for which they are admired by all law-abiding citizens of Delaware. They stand ready today to serve where and when called in accordance with the laws of the state and the protection of their fellow men."

mes a toss-out

they cut what little we get?" asked one.

"They talk about civil unrest. They're going to get civil unrest," a woman threatened.

"Governor Terry can go to Florida for a nose bleed. When I get sick, I don't have enough money to go to the hospital."

"There's going to be a revolution next summer," promised a young man.

"There'll be no more fires. We'll shoot the white man if he kills us."

THE group broke up and milled through the halls.

Maynard Jones, a Republican Negro from Wilmington, pulled some of the young militants outside, warning them that if violence broke out during the day, they wouldn't get the bill passed.

"We're trying to help masses of colored people, not just a few," he said.

They didn't listen. Shortly afterwards, Dorsey was arrested in the rest room.

"He didn't do anything. He didn't do anything," said Denorval. "I saw it."

THE crowd gathered. State police charged in. Howard Brown, one of the leaders, who was shoved out of the men's room, started to take off his coat and was hustled away by a woman.

Police started to lead Dorsey out of the room and down the corridor.

"Where are you taking him?" "He didn't do it." The shouts rang out. Some moved to stop police in the crowded corridor.

Shoving the officers. One youth was struck across the forehead with a billy club.

Evans came to the rescue and accompanied the young man outside. Dorsey agreed to go with Evans down to the Magistrate's Court 7.

HE appeared before magis-trate Maurice Carrow, who advised him of his rights, freeing him under \$500 bail bond signed by Evans for a later preliminary hearing on charges of assaulting Capt. Thomas F. Buckmaster by poking the state policeman's chin with his finger.

Meanwhile, the buses returned to the area at 4 p.m. and some

of the demonstrators got in, ready to go home.

Mrs. Catherine French, a Wilmington welfare recipient who recently was named by Terry to serve on the state welfare board, called them out of the buses for a rally.

She read a telegram of support from civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King and asked the demonstrators not to go back to Wilmington.

"YOU made up your minds you were going to stay — now you are ready to run," she said.

"Anyone who's going back to Wilmington, you're the ones that are going to suffer."

About 100 left despite her plea.

The others returned to Legislative Hall for the planned all-night sit-in. After they were evicted, they walked and drove to the Mt. Zion AME Church in Dover, where they were housed for the night.

Those who remained had asked that the buses return for them last night. The Rev. John E. Clement, one of their organizers, told them the organization had enough money for the buses to return today, presumably with more demonstrators, but not to bring the buses to Dover last night. Mr. Clement is pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Our Savior, Wilmington.

THE General Assembly is scheduled to meet again this afternoon, but some legislative leaders regarded passage of the welfare supplement doubtful.

They guessed that enough legislators will stay away to make passage impossible. A majority of elected members of each house is required.

"If they hadn't been here," said one House member in

reference to the demonstrators, "we would have passed it today."

Evans, while trying to get the demonstrators to leave Legislative Hall peaceably, told them "you have already made your point."

"I'm going out on a limb to say the legislature will pass the bill tomorrow. I have a lot of confidence in my colleagues."

HOWEVER, he said, he could not make that guarantee if there was violence last night.

The demonstrators at the church played cards, and slept on the floor. Church members and Delaware State College students furnished food.

Brown, director of the West Side Conservation Association, declined to outline the group's exact plans for today.

However, he said as he paced the floor, "We have been beaten and we need help. But tomorrow we're going to show them we can't be beaten."

Leroy Tate, president of the Delaware State Student Government Association, said about 200 college students would join a march to be held at 11 this morning. He declined to elaborate about the march.

SEVERAL of the students were at the church last night, he said, to discuss the day's happenings.

The demonstrators distributed mimeographed handouts at the demonstration outlining the purpose of the protest.

In the handout, they vowed to eat, sleep and live in Legislative Hall until our demands are met.

Morning News
3/28/68

tery involving a state policeman in the men's rest room. The arrest, prior to the melee, threatened to touch off a major disturbance earlier in the day before Evans intervened.

—THE observation by a legis-lator that the demonstrators' unruliness probably delayed passage of the bill for which they had come to Dover.

The demonstrators arrived in four buses and streamed up the steps into Legislative Hall, moving into the House which convened about 1:45 p.m.

Youths with chains around their necks lined the sides of the chambers, annoying a minister who refused to surrender a seat to one of the women.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited, but none of the demonstrators appeared to join in — much to the disgust of several legislators.

House speaker George C. Her- ing III, R-Wilmington, dis- tressed at the noise said:

"ONLY elected state repre-sentatives may speak on this floor."

"We are the grassroots people," an angry man replied, but then he shut up.

Meanwhile out in the hall, children were bedded down on blankets and air mattresses. Other youths stretched out in front of the men's rest rooms, — forcing people to step over them to enter.

The House recessed and the demonstrators congregated on the steps, inviting the "soul brothers and sisters to speak."

"HOW are we going to live, if

Crowded Balcony, Vows To Stay

Bags of food, blankets, bottles of soda and about 60 demonstrators were strewn around Gov. Charles L. Terry's office on the second floor of Legislative Hall yesterday afternoon.

The demonstrators, who had come by the busload, moved in an attempt to force passage of a welfare supplement bill to stage a camp-in and lay-down. They were another type of law.

Rep. Raymond Evans, D-Wilmington, stood overlooking the hall's lobby and addressed the demonstrators. He began by telling that he felt the bill would be passed. "I believe the bill I put in today will be passed tomorrow," he said.

Evans then told the demonstrators that it was their choice whether to stay or leave; "To stay here and to be carried

out tonight will not help your cause." They decided to stay.

At the time Evans was speaking, State Police were gathering in the office of the Secretary of State off the hallway. Each man carried a night stick, and public address equipment was brought in.

All along the hallway, men and women and children sat on blankets and coats, milled

around, gathering in little groups to talk. Many wore black lettered white buttons with the words "Welfare is a right not a privilege".

The protestors were determined to stay. One of them, Marvin Caulk, said, "If the bill is passed we go home. If it isn't passed, we stay."

More State Police quietly entered the office across from Gov. Terry's, until an estimated 50 had gathered.

Rosalie Joyner, 24 years old and mother of two, one of the live-inners was asked if the demonstrators would stay unless bodily removed. She replied, "If they don't, we're going to be here until this building falls apart if necessary. I receive a grand total of \$137 a month to live on."

A few minutes after 5:00 p.m., closing time for the building, Capt. Edward Horney of

the State Police appeared on the balcony with a megaphone. He told the demonstrators it was time to go. "The building is now closed. You must leave now," he said. As he spoke, two of the demonstrators ran down the hallway behind him, yelling and mimicing Horney's words so that he could not be heard.

Shortly after Horney's address, the State troopers moved out of their gathering place, blocked the stairway at both bottom and top, and began to move the demonstrators out.

3/28/68

Del State



Dover Bureau Photo by Chuck McGowen

AFTER ADJOURNMENT—State police struggle to carry away from Legislative Hall one of about 50 welfare

demonstrators who refused to leave when the building was officially closed.

3/27/68



d. About 50 demonstrators
were involved in the brief

Dover Bureau Photo by Chuck McGowen
melee. The demonstrators were there to push for pas-
sage of a supplementary welfare grant appropriation.

3/27/68

Four Arrested During Trouble

Four persons were arrested in yesterday's melee at Legislative Hall. Three of them are out on bond. All are Wilmington residents. All were taken to Magistrate Court 7 in Dover.

Alan Dorsey 18, was charged with assault and battery. In a fracas occurring in the basement of the building, Dorsey allegedly struck Capt. Thomas F. Buckmaster of the State Police in the chin with the forefinger of a clenched hand. Dorsey was held in the men's rest room while about 40 of the demonstrators jeered, taunted and insulted troopers guarding the door.

He was released on a \$500 surety bond signed by Rep. Raymond Evans, and is scheduled to appear before the court at a preliminary hearing on April 10. Arraignment was before Magistrate Maurice W. Carrow.

Calvin M. Brooks, (no age given) was charged with malicious mischief in connection with

the breaking of a lock in the men's restroom. He is being held at the Kent County Correctional Institution in default of \$500 bond.

Wanda and Arlene Chambers (their ages not available,) were arrested and charged with breach of the peace. The warrant for their arrest read in part: "to wit: by resisting troopers while they were attempting to remove subjects from legislative hall; would attempt to break through police lines, struggling with various officers in the process."

Wanda Chambers, released on \$100 bond, is to appear in the court on April 6. Arlene Chambers, her sister, was released from family court custody on bail.

The Chambers' sisters arrest came after the welfarites had been expelled from Legislative Hall, and police were trying to move them off the grounds.

3/28/68

Terry Calls For 100 Guardsmen

DOVER — A brief free-swinging melee between welfare recipients and club-wielding state troopers at Legislative Hall yesterday apparently has jeopardized chances for passage of the \$249,000 welfare bill today.

Demonstrators, some 40 of whom stayed all night at the Mt. Zion AME church here, braced for another onslaught at the legislative chambers today, but were keeping mum about strategy.

There was talk that about 200 Delaware State College students would join the recipients in today's protest for the supplemental appropriation that would prevent forthcoming cuts in welfare grants.

GOV. Charles L. Terry Jr. called Brig. Gen. D. Preston Lee, adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, this morning and ordered 100 National Guardsmen stationed in the Dover Armory.

Democratic House Whip Melvin A. Slawik of New Castle said today that there were enough votes early yesterday to pass the bill. "But by afternoon we had lost them," he said.

Slawik said that "a lot depends" on the actions of the demonstrators today. He predicted that some legislators inclined to vote for the appropriation might not show up in the chamber if another unruly afternoon is in prospect.

House Speaker George C. Hering III, a Wilmington Republican, said only that a vote on the bill would be "extremely close." He said he knew of no house members who planned to stay home.

Rep. Raymond T. Evans, D-Wilmington, a Negro legislator who acted as an intermediary between the demonstrators and the authorities yesterday, was not optimistic this morning.

"THERE were enough votes yesterday to pass it today," he said. "But what if the legislators stay away?"

Although the House vote must come first, there may be even more opposition to the appropriation in the Senate.

"I doubt if we're going to pass it," Democratic Leader Allen J. Cook of Kenton said.

He suggested a compromise may be reached under which an appropriation would be made for benefits to the elderly and the handicapped, but not to the general assistance and aid to dependent children programs.

"Those people who say they are unemployed don't need anything," he said. "There is no reason for anyone to be unemployed today."

Cook's opposite number, Sen. Reynolds du Pont of Greenville, disagreed with the prediction. He said he thought most of the nine Senate Republicans would vote for the bill.

Evening Journal
March 28, 1968

DEMONSTRATORS planned an 11 a.m. march on Legislative Hall and those who stayed overnight were expected to be joined by many who left yesterday before state police evicted those who planned to sleep-in at the capitol.

James H. Sills Jr., director of

the Peoples Settlement Association, said this morning that demonstrators from the East and West Side groups in Wilmington would be brought down on buses. He didn't know how many would come. The buses are financed by \$263 raised at a rally Tuesday night.

Capt. F. Edward Melvin said state police "will of course be prepared to handle anything that may come up." He declined to reveal how many troopers would be used.

BRIG. Gen. of the 3d Battalion, headquartered at Laurel, fifty guardsmen were stationed at the armory here yesterday during the fracas but were not called in.

The 3d is the week's "alert" battalion.

Leroy Tate, president of the Delaware State Student Government Association, and a half dozen other students arrived at the Mt. Zion Church at 8:45 a.m. However, both he and the demonstrators refused to disclose their plans.

"We aren't saying anything," said Howard Brown, one of the leaders. "Wait and see what happens."

long," he replied.

Children played outside today

DEMONSTRATORS—P. 3, C. 4

Demonstrators Cleared Out Of Hall by State Troopers

(Continued From Page One)

int eh bright sunshine while mothers cleaned up after an early breakfast.

The melee erupted yesterday after about 50 recipients refused to leave Legislative Hall at 5 p.m. when the building closed.

Troopers waded in with billy clubs to clear the building in accordance with a resolution passed by both houses to remove the demonstrators at closing time.

THE welfare advocates with their children had stationed themselves on the second floor and stairways of the historic building, vowing not to leave until the General Assembly passed a \$249,000 appropriation to prevent cuts in welfare payments.

Evans pleaded in vain with the demonstrators to go peacefully and return today when the legislature reconvenes. Evans had introduced legislation to cover the supplementary appropriation earlier yesterday and Terry promised to sign it if both legislative chambers passed the measure.

State Police Capt. Edward Horney then announced over a loud speaker that the hall was officially closed and warned the demonstrators they would be evicted forcibly if they did not choose to leave.

NO one moved.

About 60 troopers streamed out of offices where they had been cloistered for the day.

An outspoken leader, who identified himself as John Denorval, was grabbed first. Two burly troopers started moving him backwards down a corridor. Denorval fought and the three stumbled to the floor.

Wanda Chambers, 19, 600 block Madison St., Wilmington, sprang to Denorval's aid. Troopers pushed her back and she lost her balance falling backwards down the north stairs and over the backs of the others sitting on the steps. She was treated at Kent General Hospital for an abrasion of the back and released. The fight was on.

TROOPERS moved quickly force the swearing, shouting group on the steps down the stairs. Other troopers on the first floor swarmed up, grabbing men and women and pushing them out the front door.

Women tore billy clubs out of officers' hands and tried to fight back. Some stumbled. Placards and bodies fell. Children cried. Men swore.

"You dirty filthy animals," they called police.

In moments, the north end stairway was cleared and grim, perspiring police turned to the southern part of the hall where primarily older women and children had congregated.

HORNEY scooped up a tearful youngster and carried him down the stairs. Others filed out with little resistance. Some were escorted by two troopers. Others walked out alone, despite Denorval's shouting from outside. "Don't walk out. Don't walk out."

The troopers massed on the Legislative Hall steps briefly in the warm evening sunlight.

"Spit on them. Spit on them." Denorval urged.

No one did.

Troopers then marched out sending the demonstrators retreating back across the parking lot. Some stayed to fight.

"**YOU** called me a black nigger bitch," an irate girl stormed at a trooper. "Baloney," the trooper replied.

Miss Chambers fell again outside and was struggling with police on the pavement. "Pull your skirt down and stand up," her mother admonished.

Miss Chambers was handcuffed and arrested along with her 15-year-old sister, Arlene. The older girl was charged by police with breach of peace and the younger girl with being a delinquent.

Miss Chambers was bleeding slightly from a cut on the small of her back. She claimed she suffered the injury when a state trooper kicked her.

SHE was released on \$100 bond for an April 6 preliminary hearing. Her sister was released for an appearance in Kent County Family Court.

Calvin M. Brooks, 600 block Jefferson St., was arrested on charges of removing a door lock from the legislative hall bathroom and trying to flush it down the toilet.

Brooks spent the night at Kent Correctional Institute on a malicious mischief charge and was released today on a \$500 bond posted by Wilmington NAACP Chairman Roy L. Wagstaff.

The fight capped a day which saw the following events:

- The walls of Legislative Hall were stripped of all pictures and portraits before the sit-in.

- About 150 recipients arriving by bus at 1 p.m. and crowding into Legislative Hall.

- A resolution passed by both houses to evict the demonstrators at closing time.

- A speech by Terry to both houses in which he promised to sign the welfare appropriation bill, if passed. He had to stop talking at one point because of the uproar outside.

- Arrest of Alan Dorsey, 19, 1300 block West St., Wilmington on charges of assault and battery involving a state policeman in the men's rest room. The arrest, prior to the melee, threatened to touch off a major disturbance earlier in the day before Evans intervened.

The demonstrators arrived in four buses and streamed up the steps into Legislative Hall, moving into the House which convened about 1:45 p.m.

Hering, distressed at the noise said:

"**ONLY** elected state representatives may speak on this floor."

Meanwhile out in the hall, children were bedded down on blankets and air mattresses. Other youths stretched out in front of the men's rest rooms, forcing people to step over them to enter.

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demonstrators congregated on the steps, inviting the "soul brothers and sisters to speak." they cut what little we get?" asked one.

"They talk about civil unrest. They're going to get civil unrest," a woman threatened.

"Governor Terry can go to Florida for a nose bleed. When I get sick, I don't have enough money to go to the hospital."

"I have worked," one mother told the group. "You (whites) don't know me, but you have eaten in the Wilmington Country Club. Well, I'm that big old salad girl and you don't know what I put in that salad, either."

"There's going to be a revolution next summer," promised a young man.

"There'll be no more fires. We'll shoot the white man if he kills us."

THE group broke up and milled through the halls.

Maynard Jones, a Republican Negro from Wilmington, pulled some of the young militants outside, warning them that if violence broke out during the day, they wouldn't get the bill passed.

"We're trying to help masses of colored people, not just a few," he said.

They didn't listen. Shortly afterwards, Dorsey was arrested in the rest room.

"He didn't do anything. He didn't do anything," said Denorval. "I saw it."

THE crowd gathered. State police charged in. Howard Brown, one of the leaders, who was shoved out of the men's

room, started to take off his coat and was hustled away by a woman.

Police started to lead Dorsey out of the room and down the corridor.

"Where are you taking him?" "He didn't do it." The shouts rang out. Some moved to stop police in the crowded corridor.

Shoving the officers. One youth was struck across the forehead with a billy club.

Evening Journal
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Evans came to the rescue and accompanied the young man outside. Dorsey agreed to go with Evans down to the Magistrate's Court 7.

HE appeared before magistrate Maurice Carrow, who advised him of his rights, freeing him under \$500 bail bond signed by Evans for a later preliminary hearing on charges of assaulting Capt. Thomas F. Buckmaster by poking the state policeman's chin with his finger.

Meanwhile, the buses returned to the area at 4 p.m. and some of the demonstrators got in, ready to go home.

Mrs. Catherine French, a Wilmington welfare recipient who recently was named by Terry to serve on the state welfare board, called them out of the buses for a rally.

She read a telegram of support from civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King and asked the demonstrators not to go back to Wilmington.

"YOU made up your minds you were going to stay — now

you are ready to run," she said.

"Anyone who's going back to Wilmington, you're the ones that are going to suffer."

Evans, while trying to get the demonstrators to leave Legislative Hall peaceably, told them "you have already made your point.

"I'm going out on a limb to say the legislature will pass the bill tomorrow. I have a lot of confidence in my colleagues."

Evans had met with Terry and Democratic State Chairman Alexis I. du Pont Bayard moments before confronting the demonstrators and gotten a promise that the Democratic State Committee would finance buses to get the people back to Wilmington.

"I thought they would leave," he said this morning. "I went in there (to the Governor's office) because it was suggested that if they did leave, how would they get home?"

HE was critical of those who battled police. "These people were overcome by the few guys who went there not because they wanted the cut restored, but to raise Cain."

Evans said the House should have suspended its rules and passed the appropriation yesterday. "I don't think members of the General Assembly should have taken the stand yesterday that 'We're being intimidated so we're not going to pass the bill,'" Evans said.

The demonstrators distributed mimeographed handouts at the demonstration outlining the purpose of the protest.

In the handout, they vowed to pose of the protest. eat, sleep and live in Legislative Hall until the demands are met.

THE listed four demands.

1. That Terry place four welfare recipients on the State Board of Welfare, instead of just the two he named.

2. Immediate passage of the \$249,000 supplemental appropriation.

3. That the Senate committee investigate the welfare department "cease violating state law and begin public hearings." All committee sessions have been closed.

4. That legislative ceilings on welfare grants be raised to a level "which permits recipients to live a decent life."

Groups participating in the demonstration were listed as West Center City Welfare Committee, Northeast Welfare Council, Upper East Side Welfare Committee, Lower East Side Welfare Council, and the Southbridge Welfare Committee.

Struggle Perils Welfare Bill



Dover Bureau Photo by Chuck McGowan

CLOSING TIME—State troopers drive down rear corridor in Legislative Hall as they start clearing-out operation decreed

by both houses of the General Assembly yesterday.

March 28, 1968
Delaware State News



3/28/68
All State

Short-Lived Live-In Ends In Brawl, Another Planned

Sixty yelling demonstrators were ejected from Legislative Hall in Dover yesterday in a wild, scrambling melee with State Police.

Some of the demonstrators were claiming it was "only the beginning" of Dover's "long hot summer."

The 60 were a "rear guard" of more than 200, including many children, who came to Dover from Wilmington in four buses to demand passage of a \$249,000 emergency appropriation so that welfare checks will not be cut next month.

On orders of the House and Senate leaders to clear the building at 5 p.m., Rep. Raymond Evans (D-Wilmington), and Capt. Edward Horney of the State Police asked the protestors to leave.

The pleas were ignored as the welfarites took up positions on the second floor around Gov. Charles L. Terry's office and on the center stairway. Troop-

More On Page 19

ers moved in, and for the next several minutes the scene became a sea of bodies screaming, kicking, and shoving, as police and protestors tumbled down the stairs together.

Those who resisted were dragged outside. Older persons were escorted out. Capt. Horney carried down a baby.

Once outside, the mob milled about taunting, and shouting. Then a police phalanx moved forward, the officers with clubs across their chests. The crowd fell across Legislative Ave. By nightfall they had dispersed, and many slept last night at the Mt. Zion AME church at Queen and Fulton Streets.

The main group left earlier on the buses, but a spokesman, Mrs. Catherine French, a recent appointee to the State Board of Welfare, said they would return today.

(A driver for one of the S. C. Gregg charter buses used by the group said the company had no plans at that time to bring them back).

A contingent of National Guardsmen were stationed in the nearby armory, in what Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Scannell described as "a training exercise."

Earlier the center of attraction — the welfare appropriation measure — was introduced in the House in a brief session. It followed a short speech by Gov. Terry to both Houses in which he urged passage of Departments of Transportation and Housing.

As to the welfare measure, he said "The responsibility is yours. You can only appropriate the money. I will conform to any action this legislature finds advisable and feasible . . ."

On convening of the House and Senate, the crowd, almost all Negroes, congregated on the stairway and along the balcony on the second floor.

"We'll eat and sleep in Legislative Hall," said one.

"There will be civil unrest if we don't get our money," yelled another.

Yet another, identified as James Denorval Bratten from Wilmington, a look-alike of H. Rap Brown, spent most of the afternoon exhorting the crowd to take action against the police.

His resistance to the clearing action when police attempted to eject him started the tumult on the stairs.

3/28/68



Ordered by the Legislature to clear Legislative Hall of the Welfare protesters who planned to stay the night, State Police had to forcibly remove Wanda Chambers (left and above). She was released on bond, as were two of the three other protesters arrested. Calvin M. Brooks was held in default of \$500 bond. (State News Photos by Jack Costello and Tim Blagg)

3/28/68
del State

Terry Cursed, Has Office Used As Command Post

March 28, 1968
Delaware State News

By JACK K. RUSSELL

Gov. Charles L. Terry's office was pressed into service as a "command post" during yesterday's uproar at Legislative Hall in Dover.

The State Police and National Guard had been alerted and had a "battle plan" long before some 200 persons on the welfare rolls — most of them women and children — descended on Dover for a "live in" designed to force passage of a \$249,000 welfare appropriation.

The plan called for a token force of State Police officers and troopers to maintain order in Legislative Hall, while National Guardsmen stood by in the Dover Armory a stone's throw from the scene and some 30 State Police in unmarked cars stood ready to move in instantly at a given signal.

Governor Terry, who earlier had been jostled and vilified as he made his way to the Senate chamber to address a joint session, remained in his office throughout the fracas.

With him at various times were Democratic State Chairman Alexis I. du Pont Bayard, Col. Charles G. Lamb, superintendent of State Police; Harold T. Bockman, New Castle County Democratic chairman; Ned Davis, Terry's press secretary; and Lt. James Mood, Terry's State Police aide.

Terry was shaken by his experience in going to and from the Senate chamber. His speech was interrupted on at least one occasion by shouts and screams from the hallways.

He was obviously angry as he read his prepared text, but he did not deviate from the text to comment on the shouting and screaming of the "live in" demonstrators blocking the stairways and halls.

A phalanx of State Police had to escort the governor from the Senate chamber as demonstrators waved placards in his face and cursed him.

The governor personally elbowed two demonstrators away from him and appeared upset by the situation.

Later, Terry watched through the slits of a venetian blind in his office as about 30 of the demonstrators crowded around his car in an attempt to prevent him from leaving the building.

"They're going to scratch that car, Jimmy," Terry said to Mood. "Get down there."

Meanwhile four troopers moved toward the car and edged the demonstrators back.

Terry was heard to comment "I'll not run again. I can't put up with four more years of this."

Outside Terry's office on the stairway, agitators were urging the demonstrators to give "testimony" about their plight.

Terry bore the brunt of the impromptu speeches which worked the crowd into a near frenzy. Each time the crowd would quiet down, one of four apparently-trained "leaders" would exhort them to further frenzy.

"Governor Terry has time to see the man in the white sheet, but he didn't have time to see us," shouted one woman.

"We're being forced to live like rats and dogs," said another.

"Amen, sister," chorused the crowd.

A skinny Negro wearing a sweat shirt emblazoned with the name, Nat Turner, and black handprints, shouted:

"There's going to be a revolution this summer."

Another portly woman, who said she was the mother of seven, screamed:

"If we can't keep our children clean because we can't afford soap, they take them from us. Before I let anyone take my children, I'll march on Governor Terry's mansion."

Another woman cried: "If Gov. Terry gets a nose bleed, he goes to Florida for a vacation. I don't have money to even go to the hospital if I get sick."

Young Negro males moved through the crowd attempting to collect "donations to welfare." Some of the whites gave.

State Police kept a wary eye on about six young males with chains draped about their necks. Each time violence threatened to break out, the chains came off the necks and were doubled up in the fists.

Political leaders, concerned that a major riot might break out, early in the day met and mapped out a plan to clear the building without subjecting either party or the governor to embarrassment.

House Speaker George C. Hering III (R-Wilmington) and Senate Majority Leader Allen J. Cook (D-Kenton), with Terry's approval, agreed to pass a voice resolution directing the capital custodian, Thomas Murray, to clear the building "to

protect state property" at the conclusion of business.

Hering adjourned the House about 3 p.m. The Senate quit shortly before five.

State Police standing by were waiting only for a request from Murray to move into action.

Also called up were State Police recruits currently attending the training academy.

Murray's aged janitor force was unable to clear the building, and Murray asked for assistance. The police then moved from a locked room and from cars outside Legislative Hall to clear the demonstrators from the building.

Rebuffed demonstrators vow revolt



FRISKY ENTRANCE—State troopers frisk the Rev. Brice Joyce of Wilmington as they did all other welfare demonstrators entering Legislative Hall in Dover

yesterday. . . Waiting his turn behind Father Joyce is the Rev. Ronald N. Powell of Wilmington. They were among about 150 demonstrators in the building.

News Journal
3/29/68

150 leave Dover hall peacefully

By KATHIE DIBELL
Dover Bureau

DOVER—About 150 welfare demonstrators, threatening a black revolution because their demands weren't met, marched out of Legislative Hall peacefully late yesterday.

"We will turn our struggle over to the soldiers of the black revolution," vowed Mrs. Rosalie Joyner, welfare recipient leader from Wilmington. "The government has shown us it will only respond to aggression and acts of violence."

The demonstrators, most of them from nearby Delaware State College, roared their approval when she said blacks should "dismember or overthrow the present state government."

"LET'S leave and regroup later," said Howard Brown, a center director of West Side Conservation Association in Wilmington and a spokesman for the demonstrators. The group poured out to a staccato chant of "regroup, regroup."

The retreat capped a two-day sit-in at Legislative Hall aimed at pressuring the General Assembly into passing a \$249,000 supplemental appropriation for welfare. The funds would prevent forthcoming cuts in welfare checks.

Wednesday's demonstration ended with brief violence. About 50 persons were carried and pushed out of the building by Delaware State Police after refusing to leave at closing time.

Rep. Raymond T. Evans, R-Wilmington, a Negro who sponsored the welfare measure, didn't even bring it to the House floor yesterday.

"IN counting hands, it would appear to me we do not have support in this chamber to pass the bill," he told the legislators. He asked that the bill be deferred to the next legislative day, and added that he is still confident that the measure can be passed before the cuts go into effect.

The Department of Public Welfare has said it will begin cutting payments Monday.

Sen. Herman M. Holloway Sr., D-Wilmington, soon introduced the same bill in the Senate and tried to have it passed immediately. The attempt failed; the bill mustered only nine of the needed 10 votes to suspend the rules to consider the measure.

Holloway earlier told the demonstrators he would introduce the bill.

"YOUR cooperation can help this measure go through," he said. "The decision is up to you. This singing and hand-clapping is not going to help."

"We're staying," someone shouted from the crowd, which

See LIVEIN—Pg. 2, Col. 4

News Journal
3/2 7/68

News Journal
3/29/68

During demonstration

Stores close early in Dover

By JIM HARDCASTLE
Dover Bureau

DOVER — At least six stores in downtown Dover closed early yesterday as a precaution during yesterday's welfare demonstration.

Many of the closings occurred following the arrest of two 17-year-old Wilmington youths on shoplifting charges.

Lt. Lionel Gilliam, city police public information officer, said that the two were arrested after they were allegedly seen taking several items in Kohn's men's store, 21 W. Loockerman St. The proprietor declined to say what the items were.

Gilliam said that the two youths were part of a group of some 20 to 30 welfare demon-

strators who entered the store en masse yesterday afternoon.

The youths will be tried in Kent and Sussex Counties Family Court, Gilliam said.

Perhaps the most dramatic store closing yesterday occurred shortly after 5 p.m. when as many as 200 demonstrators marched down the street chanting, "Umgawa, Umgawa, Black Power."

An employee at the Majestic Liquor Store, 219 L. Loockerman St., hurriedly slammed the door shut and turned the lock as he saw the marchers approach.

Harry Goldberg, a Loockerman Street jeweler, closed his shop about 2:30 p.m. after he saw other shopkeepers doing the same thing. "Just a precau-

tion," he said as he closed the door.

Goldberg said that before he closed his store, he called city police.

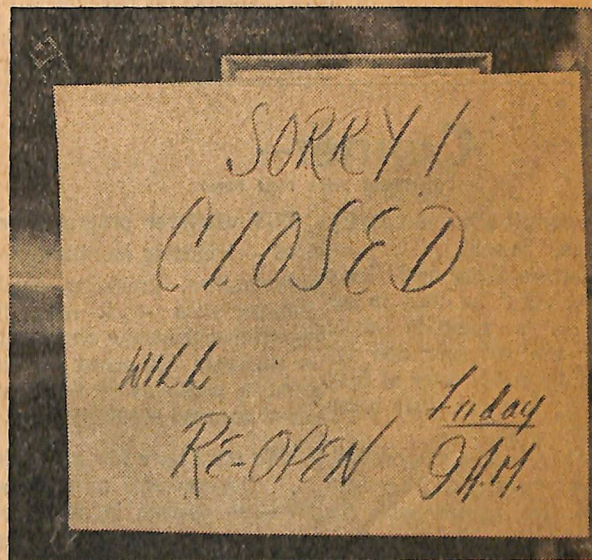
"I wanted to find out what was going on," he said. Goldberg said that the police agreed closing the store was a good idea.

"It's an awful pressure to put on a man," he said.

Yesterday afternoon before the march, Braunstein's, Sears Roebuck and Co. The Blue Door, and King's Sweet Shop were closed.

Other merchants peered out their doors as black youths walked down the street.

"I think there should be some police on the corners," one woman said as squad cars cruised down the streets.



Downtown Dover

... business not as usual

March 29, 1968
Delaware State News

Unrest Postpones Del. State Confab

Earlier Story on Page 40

The State Planning Conference that was to have been held Saturday at Delaware State College has been postponed because of student unrest on the campus.

Rudolph F. Fass, director of the State Planning Office, sponsor of the conference, announced the all-day meeting has will be rescheduled.

Time to Be Counted

MUCH HAS been made in this space during the past few days about the culpability of the General Assembly and Gov. Terry for the totally unnecessary confrontation over the supplemental welfare appropriation.

Comment on this affair cannot stop there, however. Other things must be said, and hopefully heard and understood by those leaders, both black and white, who are in the forefront of the push in Delaware for social progress for all citizens. First and foremost among them is to observe that the overwhelming majority of persons of all colors today are getting sick and tired of the hooliganism that is more and more a part of all demonstrations, no matter what their goal.

For some years now, it has been the habit to overlook the rowdier aspects of public protests as an unpleasant, but inevitable, by-product of mass movements for legitimate goals. In not a few instances, violence has even been excused as the just response of people long abused by public authority and further inflamed by strong-arm tactics in the name of law and order. This is not to say that there was ever approval of violence by sensible men, only to observe that it was tolerated because of its comparative insignificance, if not its individual horror.

There was also sympathy for the pleas of responsible, though militant leaders, who said: Don't get preoccupied with the Rap Browns and the Stokely Carmichaels; they have to be suffered if the black man is going to stand on his own two feet. Race pride won't come without pain and excess and injustice after 200 years of racism and segregation. Look to your own house, and put it in order. Let the black man take care of himself.

And so it went through Watts, Detroit and the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. But the evidence is mounting that these activist leaders can hardly control their own people anymore, let alone influence those who would subvert their activities to other ends. This was evident around the country last week in a number of cities, most notably in Memphis, Tenn., where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

rather quickly moved from parade leader to man in search of a place to hide.

It was equally clear at nearby Cheyney (Pa.) State College, which had to be closed for a week after students tore up the administration building in reprisal for the suspension of a student who was found to be living illegally in a dorm. And it was in evidence at Dover, where the welfare demonstration was marred by violence and then was subverted by loud-mouths from Delaware State College out to attract attention and young hoodlums who used the affair as an excuse to vandalize a Dover store and intimidate people.

For argument's sake, let us concede that this death and destruction, this lying and rowdyism can all be blamed on white racism. Is that reason enough to demand that good men, black and white, suffer it in silence? The answer is no. To argue otherwise is irrational, for such a position not only encourages the very racism that so sickens society but leads ultimately to self-destruction.

The most radical blacks see that; that is why they talk so much nowadays about concentration camps and genocide for black Americans. The LeRoi Joneses understand only too well the implications of their brand of black power. And they are forcing white men and black men alike to make a choice on this issue. And the choice has to be made now, not next month or next year; either society stands up to their brand of nihilism and laughs it out of the hall or it moves toward more and more restrictions on all citizens. There is no middle ground, for there will be law and order.

The choice should be obvious, for a determination to eliminate discrimination from this society and a reverence for the rights of all citizens are not mutually exclusive. The time has arrived to stop equivocating about black looters, arsonists and demagogues, just as it is time to stop equivocating about white cross-burners, political con-men and subtle bigots. If that can't be understood in Delaware here and now, then God help us all.

Morning News
4/2/68

Welfare Ruled Out As Root of Unrest

Welfare appropriations are not at the root of Negro unrest, according to several men who are involved in the current racial issues in Delaware.

Their consensus is that what the Negroes want are negotiations "with the power structure in Delaware in an atmosphere of equality and respect."

Their collective view is that the protests against possible welfare cuts were just part of over-all demands for recognition of all Negro groups.

ONE spokesman for the demonstrators in Dover last Wednesday and Thursday was Howard Brown, director of the West Side Conservation Association Center.

Brown said last week's demonstrations, at times turbulent, had been planned by the welfare rights organization in Wilmington, a loosely knit group consisting of welfare committees of neighborhood associations in five areas.

The demonstration was planned long before the supplementary welfare appropriation became an issue; that was used as the immediate objective. The more important goals, with longer lasting effects, are these:

- ELIMINATION of the legislative ceilings on certain welfare grants.

- Four welfare recipients on the Board of Welfare—two more than the two recently appointed.

- Open hearings in the legislative probe of welfare.

Beside those goals, however, there are basic concerns that have repeatedly been cited as causes of unrest nationally—the deep desire for improved conditions in jobs, housing, education, and recreation, and acceptance in the community.

Brown sees a parallel between the present situation and the labor movement in the 1930s. Labor wanted certain advances—but labor also wanted to be recognized. Today, he said, the Negro poor want to be recognized. They want to "participate," and to be negotiated with.

Brown was the one who, late Thursday afternoon, told the demonstrators to "leave and regroup later." They left peacefully.

"IF we had stayed, this would have been the beginning," he said, referring to the beginning of a violent confrontation between the Negro poor and predominantly white government power. "People would have gotten killed, and there would have been retaliation." Brown says sadly, and without a note of threat, that the situation may yet deteriorate to violence.

"We were treated like an armed aggressive force . . . If you're treated that way, you must be prepared to act that way another time."

How the demonstrators and their allies will "regroup" is not yet clear.

The Rev. Thomas Luce, pastor of West Presbyterian Church and president of the West Side

Conservation Association, was at Dover.

Asked how he, as a white man, reacted to the threats of "revolution" and "overthrow of state government," he said:

"THIS could very well be rhetoric, but" — and he paused — "there is of course danger of violence. As a matter of fact, violence is part of our American tradition."

Dipping back into American history, he recalled the era of anti-draft riots in the Civil War, the innumerable labor riots and the unrest prior to the American Revolution.

One of the young leaders at Thursday's demonstration in Legislative Hall was 21-year-old Leroy Tate of 204 E. 29th St., Wilmington, who is president of the student government of Delaware State College, near Dover.

A number of students left the college Thursday to join the welfare demonstrators.

TATE says that Negro students today are "tired of the administration that reflects the white establishment."

He told the crowd on Thursday that while they had no weapons such as guns, clubs or dogs, "we have strength and power in our hearts."

Brown, who served as liaison man with the students, said that group participated to support the Wilmington group and did exactly as they were asked.

Earlier in an interview, Tate discussed the attitudes of Negro students.

"Students today," he said, "are tired of the administration that reflects the white 'establishment.'"

"AS a Negro student, I can not disassociate myself from what's going on in the rest of the country."

Tate said that the recent demonstrations of students at Delaware State College, for example, were based on a number of specific items, but there was

something deeper than the specific demands about dormitories, rodent and roach control.

He cited a gap in the ages of students and the administration and the difficulty in effective communication.

Tate said, however, that there has been better communication recently at Delaware State College, but there is still tension there, some of which comes from the outside conditions in the nation.

"YEARS ago," Tate said, "students were not affected because Delaware College was once a more or less isolated school. Students today are more responsive to what's happening in the world."

On the subject of black power, Tate said its meaning depends a great deal upon one's own definition.

"Black power to me," he said, "means black awareness and black pride and greater participation in economic affairs. To me, it does not mean shutting the door between blacks and whites."

4/2/68
Morning hours

OK on Welfare Expected in House Today

By LARRY K. MARTIN
and ALAN MUELLER

The state House of Representatives today was expected to pass the \$249,000 supplementary welfare appropriation, subject of mass sit-ins in Legislative Hall last week.

House Speaker George C. Hering III said today a straw voted indicated "we will have the 18 votes" needed for passage of the bill.

Hering notified each representative to be in Legislative Hall this afternoon.

THE Senate was not scheduled to meet today, but Lt. Gov. Sherman W. Tribbitt said he plans to call the chamber back tomorrow regardless of House action.

Meanwhile, State Treasurer Daniel J. Ross said he will do everything in his power to have the checks mailed to welfare recipients by Saturday.

The General Assembly last Wednesday and Thursday refused to pass the appropriation in the face of several hundred angry welfare recipients and Delaware State College students

who packed Legislative Hall. State police cleared the building in a wild free-for-all Wednesday. The demonstrators left peacefully the following day.

Without the supplementary appropriation, welfare officials have said they will have cut April grants by 12½ to 25 per cent.

Tribitt noted there was little need to call the Senate back today.

HE noted, however, that if the House fails to pass the welfare bill there is a similar measure in the Senate which might receive action tomorrow.

Ross said it normally takes five working days to process the welfare checks, scheduled to go out next weekend. But, he said, he is willing to work his staff overtime to process them in a shorter period.

"If necessary, we will work late," he said. "we will do everything we possibly can to get the checks out."

The list of recipients was scheduled to be delivered to Ross today by the Department of Public Welfare. Ronald E. Miller, director, said he has prepared two lists — one with full grants, the other reflecting the cuts.

IF the legislature passes the appropriation, the full-grant list could be substituted for the one with reduced benefits.

In another development, 14 persons addressed a rally yesterday, called to support welfare demonstrators and promote tranquility in Wilmington.

About 200 persons attended

Min Sherr
4/2/68

BILL FRANK

It's time for blacks to stand

One of the disturbing elements of the Wednesday-Thursday demonstrations in Dover by the predominantly Negro group is the widening breach between Negroes and white friends.

If Negro delegations choose to barge into the office of Gov. Charles L. Terry Jr., and hurl insults at him, I'm sure he knows how to take care of himself.

And if the same Negro delegations decide to insult legislators — well, it's up to the legislators to take those insults or make reply.

But as I observed the demonstration Thursday outside Legislative Hall, I saw no reason for smart aleck students from Delaware State College hurling jibes and double entendre remarks at white people who personally had nothing to do with welfare or any of the racial problems.

As a matter of fact, the Negro students on the steps of Legislative Hall Thursday were not



there basically to support welfare grants. They were there because it meant a cut in classes and Legislative Hall was a forum for them to protest against "the establishment."

But why alienate so many friends of the Negro cause?

The Negro militants really can't win in a revolution of their own — bloody, political, or any kind.

But Negroes can continue to achieve their goals of dignity, recognition, and genuine first class citizenship status with the help of white friends.

On the other hand, their cause will either stand still or revert if they cut themselves off from their white supporters.

Small elements of Negro militants are sowing seeds of hate among large groups of Negroes and I'm afraid these seeds are beginning to sprout.

The other day when a Negro militant attacked a News-Journal photographer in Delaware State College, not one single Negro in the audience went to the photographer's support.

The audience just sat tight in the chairs and let it happen.

Yet this photographer represented one of the greatest and staunchest friends of the Negro cause in the state of Delaware — the News-Journal papers.

Ask any one of the white supremacy leaders and he'll tell the Negroes that the News-Journal papers have been too much on the side of racial justice.

On Thursday afternoon, after the demonstration at Legislative Hall, I drove around to a Negro church to see if there was any kind of meeting. I was told I should get out of the neighborhood because "the people here aren't too kind toward News-Journal people."

I sneered at this kind of threat and told the young man to go about his business and I'd go about mine.

I remember during the pre-Christmas open housing parades, there was a speaker up from Baltimore who harangued the demonstrators in the Walnut Street YMCA.

He also used that black-for-black argument. He urged the demonstrators not to have anything to do with the white reporters or white photographers.

This, too, was a big bunch of nonsense but

up to hatemongers

did any one in the crowd stand up and put this Baltimore guy straight?

Oh yes, after the meeting, a couple of Negro leaders who depend so much upon the News-Journal papers for getting their views to the people, sidled up and said, "Pay no attention to that character."

But they didn't say that in public.

The present hate-the-white program can be stopped by the middle class Negroes and cool headed young Negroes; if they don't, it's going to hurt not only white people but every one.

Let me cite something that happened a little more than 10 years ago on the other side of the coin.

There was this character, Bryant W. Bowles,

who invaded Delaware with his plan for a National Association for the Advancement of White People.

He was going pretty strong in southern Delaware until some courageous white people stopped him in his tracks. One time Bowles and his crowd wanted to invade Dover.

Dover leaders virtually stood at the city gates and told Bowles he was not welcome and to go somewhere else with his hate junk. That was the beginning of the end for Bowles in Delaware.

So far, there has been no such strong minded Negro group, courageous enough to stand up and tell the young hatemongers among Negroes to stop feeling sorry for themselves and cut out these wild threats about revolution.

Morning News - 4/2/68