

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 1 -- 12:30 am

Bud Krogh --

Re: New Haven

I'm sure I don't have to tell you that the situation is very tense.

All now invisible windows are boarded up. A source reported to me that the headquarter building of the Black Students at Yale received bomb threats all through yesterday. The black girls on campus were reportedly moved en masse to Wolf's Head -- one of the senior society houses. ("for safekeeping")

Conveniently, 100 police swept through Baltimore last night picking up six panthers. That's the account in this morning's Post. Last night it came through as 18 Panther arrests from sources on campus. This is unlikely to make things any easier today.

A steady stream of students continued to leave town last night, probably decreasing whatever buffer zone advantages their presence would have provided.

CBS has four camera crews on the scene, which are radio directed and intend to film the "urban violence" as it happens.

In the words of one report "It's not going to be Woodstock."

Art Klebanoff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 1 9:45 am

Bud Krogh --

Re: New Haven

Mike Lerner returned my call . His feeling is that things "don't look terribly good." They have had many reports of varying reliability about left and right wing extremists.

Their people have spoken in the last 24 hours with the Mayor and General Walsh, and still are most concerned about the deployment and use of the National Guard. Note this morning's New York Times story on Ohio State which says "Today's fighting was touched off by the National Guard and police forces as students began gathering to hold a protest rally."

The groups raises three points unanimously which they deem crucial:

- 1) The Guard should not be deployed in black neighborhoods
- 2) The Guard should be invisible from the Green during the speechmaking. The presence of the Guard on the Green, or ringing the Green, could end up with speakers trying to incite the crowd against the Guard.
- 3) The Guard should maintain low visibility during dispersal. They should assemble either on side streets or in their trucks, but not lined shoulder to shoulder along the escape route.

In case it hasn't been evident from earlier reports, this makes good sense to me. Let's have the Guard arrive after the trouble, if there is any, rather than before, when there might not have been any,

Art Klebanoff

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30 5:45 pm

Bud Krogh --

Re: New Haven

I called Mike Lerner to let him know that we have a functioning communication line. He was ~~most~~ most pleased to learn that.

There is apparently some confusion about how the National Guard will be used tomorrow.

The Mayor told the Board of Alderman (it was on the ~~the~~ radio, will be in the newspapers) that the Guard would be stationed in the neighborhoods, awaiting call. The United Black Clearinghouse (a coalition of all New Haven black community groups except the Panthers -- an important, ~~fairly~~ fairly rational group) immediately let it be known that they wouldn't have the Guard in ~~the~~ their community.

A prominent state senator (I think) went on a radio saying the Guard would be stationed to protect Yale property and downtown property.

The first option mixes the Guard with the blacks, the second the Guard with the students -- neither ~~entirely~~ entirely attractive options. And the confusion simply leaves both upset.

Lerner says there are armories within two minutes of the campus where the Guard could be stationed until needed.

Art Klebanoff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30 4 pm

Bud Krogh --

re: New Haven

I just spoke with Michael Lerner (Max Lerner's son and a most responsible guy whom Moynihan can vouch for) who was speaking on behalf of a Student-Faculty Monitoring Group. The ~~good~~ group includes some most respected faculty people (Kenneth Keniston, William Kessen, David Barber) and is cool-headed, rational, and most anxious to avoid trouble tomorrow and Saturday.

Dr. Moynihan just spoke with Ken Keniston, the chairman of the group, and got much the same reading I got from Lerner.

Their biggest concern is this:

The group unanimously feels that a "low-low-profile" ~~is~~ on the part of the National Guard is critical to avoiding violence. They are fearful that Governor Dempsey or Mayor Guida will urge a show of force on Chief Ahearn, and that the actively exposed presence of the Guard will itself serve as a promoter of violence.

They urge that the Guard should not be visibly committed (beyond an obvious token presence) unless and until there is big trouble. They are confident in Chief Ahearn's ability to control the situation with a low profile strategy.

They most fear a "high-profile" strategy with the Guard. There are apparently tanks and personnel carriers stationed in Branford (a suburb) and ferrying the Guard into the city this way they ~~w~~ feel would generate a most unfortunate reaction on the part of the radicals. The radicals are currently arguing that "violence is the tool of fascism" and that violence would be tactically and politically unwise at this point.

Part of their fear is that Dempsey, Guida, and perhaps the White House would not be upset to see Yale hit big trouble.

DCM noted
4/30

I told Lerner of the Federal response to Governor Dempsey's request, and assured him of "no precipitate response." I also told him that a rumor that Federal troops would move from McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey on New Haven was untrue.

I can reach both Lerner and Keniston, in addition to other sources I contacted earlier.

Will keep you posted.

The group~~s~~ feels that Homer Bigart's story of events in ~~xxx~~ this morning's Times is the most accurate account thus far. This was confirmed by some of my other conversations.

Art Klebanoff