MISSISSIPPI POLICE USE GAS TO ROUT RIGHTS CAMPERs

2,500 in Canton Are Chased
While Trying to Put Up Tents in School Area

By GENE ROBINS

From the New York Times

CANTON, Miss., June 23—

Mississippi highway patrolmen cut 3,000 (est.) rights demonstra-
tors tonight with a din of tear and irritant gas after the demonstrators had at-
tempts to pitch camping tents in front of the School Administration Building.

"You will not be allowed to erect the tents—if you do you will be removed," troopers barked over megaphones two minutes before hurling canisters after canisters of gas.

The troopers said they had acted at the request of city and county school and law enforce-
ment officials, who said the marchers did not have permis-
sion to erect their tents on the school ground.

The gas sent men, women and children running and crying from the tents they had been trying to erect for victims of the civil rights march through Mis-
sippi who arrived here today.

Troopers Were In

From 15 to 50 white and black demonstrators burned their fuses in the grass at Mid-
land Elementary School on the outskirts of town tonight. They were using gas until 81 per-
cent of the patrolmen were overcome in a gas mask, grabbed them by the feet and heads and dragged them into the streets that surrounded the school.

Just before darkfight the Rev. James W. Miller, head of the Madi-
son County civil rights move-
mant, led 30 angry marchers through the streets and called for a general strike and eco-
nomic boycott by Negroes to-
mass in protest against the highway patrol's action.

The highway patrol refused an additional 500 permission in Can-
ton at sunset, but there were no disorders.

In Washington, President Johnono, responding to a re-
quest by rights leaders for Federal measures in Phila-
adelphia, Miss., said he had been assured by Gov. Paul B. Johnson Jr., of Mississippi, that state

provide adequate protection of na-rights rally seen Fri-

11 Merchants Arrested

Canton police and Madison County sheriff's deputies had earlier arrested 11 demo-
strators, seized from them about $500 and locked a Negro and child outside a Negro

caused a shouting match among them with yelling.

They were then arrested by the state troopers. One

and saw a trooper throw the Rev. John Fadur, a Roman Catholic priest from Chicago, and let him with the butt of a rifle.

When Robert Gillum, a frees-

For the second straight day in Canton, the New York Times reported, police arrested 11 merchants and other people who tried to erect tents in front of the school in protest against the civil rights demonstration. The demonstrators, who had attempted to erect their tents on public school property, reported running and crying. The rioting was a continuation of a series of events that began on June 21, when black and white demonstrators clashed in Canton, resulting in several deaths and injuries. The Associated Press reported that black demonstrators were met with water cannons and gas masks. The New York Times also reported that the state National Guard had been called in to help maintain order. The demonstration was one of many that took place in Mississippi during the civil rights movement. The movement aimed to secure voting rights, desegregate schools and public facilities, and end racial discrimination. The Mississippi Freedom Riders were a group of civil rights activists who rode interstate buses to desegregate interstate public transportation. The Freedom Riders were met with violence and harassment in Mississippi, and several riders were arrested. The New York Times and other media outlets covered these events extensively, and the movement gained national attention. The demonstration in Canton was just one of many that took place in Mississippi during the civil rights movement, and the coverage of these events by the New York Times and other media outlets played a crucial role in highlighting the struggles of African Americans for equal rights.
Police in Canton, Miss., Use Tear Gas to Rout 2,500 Trying to Put Up Tents for Civil Rights Marchers

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and knocked him into a ditch.

The demonstrators followed the advice of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who told them that it would be more effective before the canisters went off:

"There's no point in fighting back. Don't do it." As the troopers moved in, the demonstrators were chanting, "Put up the tents, put up the tents.

"After the marchers had been routed, the police picked up the tents and threw them into a truck and impounded the truck. This left the marchers with no shelter on a wet night. There had been drizzling showers intermittently throughout the afternoon and the ground was soaked.


Until the gas drove them away, Dr. King, Floyd B. McKissick, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, and Stokely Carmichael, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, stood atop a covered van shouting encouragements to the demonstrators. "I don't know what they've told you about us," Dr. King said, "but we aren't going to fight any state troopers. But we are going to sing and we are going to fill up all the jails in Mississippi.

"Don't fight back," shouted Mr. McKissick. "We've got our gas masks and tear gas canisters inside, and we can turn them against the police. If you fight back, you are just helping them.

"Watching the gas attack from the street was the Rev. Robert Taylor of St. John's Episcopal Church in Jersey City. "It was sick, evil and inhuman," he said. "I spoke of the sickness of our society. I can't see it. Can't see it."

"Can't you see it?"

"No. They were going to make speeches," Mr. Gora replied. "They got away with it on the basis of a lie."

"The time for running has come to an end," he said. "Tell the white people all the schools are closed. There are 100,000 Negroes on the streets."

"Why do you want to go to jail?"

"You see, I'm a human being, just like you are," she asked. "Can't you see it?"

"I couldn't see it, friend, I thought this was a bad idea." The girl stood at the door of the City Hall.

"The city of Canton has no right to sell tear gas,"

"The state had nothing to do with it," Mr. Gora said. "We had nothing to do with it.

"The city of Canton has nothing to do with the state troopers."

"The state had nothing to do with the state troopers."

"I thought this type of thing was a bad idea."