

Suburbs Watch, Wait During Riots

Suburbs were too close to Detroit this week for comfort.

They suffered from jitters even more disturbing than the tornado alerts that come with the heat of summer.

Most serious single consequence of the riot to the suburbs was the postponement of the Farmington Founders' Festival, scheduled for Thursday through Saturday.

Board of Commerce officials announced the postponement late Tuesday morning on the basis of advice from state police and local authorities. Farmington, along with other suburbs, is under a curfew and prohibition.

The festival was re-scheduled for Aug. 24-26. Curfew time will be moved forward while the curfew is in force for the Livonia high school students' production of "My Fair Lady." Curtain time will be 6 p.m. instead of 8:30 p.m. in Franklin High School as long as the curfew lasts. This will enable the audience to be out by 8:30. Performances are scheduled for Wednesday through Saturday.

At Schoolcraft College, however, the outdoor Court Concert is still scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, a college spokesman said at midday Tuesday, 7 p.m. if curfew continues.

The Livonia PTA Council began a collection of clothing and canned food for burned-out inner city families. Donations will be received in the health and education rooms in the northwest corner of Franklin High School, Joy Road east of Merriman.

Distribution will be handled by an inter-faith group. Further information may be obtained from school officials at either GA. 5-1900 or KE. 7-4493.

Word that the State Police troopers, the National Guard thousands strong, and soldiers from the United States Army had joined Detroit's 5,000 police gave hope that the trouble—stemming from a blind pig raid—could be controlled.

But word to Livonia and Farmington and Plymouth and Redford Township and Westland-Garden City and other suburbs that their police and firemen should stand by to lend a hand, if needed, added to the restlessness that had settled Sunday over Wayne County and parts of counties that surround it.

Unlike Detroit, where businesses were shut down with the hope that roaming mobs of lawless Negroes would pass them by in their breaking and looting, there was business as usual during the daylight hours in the suburbs. But nightfall was another thing. The 9 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. curfew that Gov. Romney and Mayor Cavanagh had imposed on Detroit, and that mayors had extended to Highland Park and Hamtramck in the heart of the city, was extended to all of Wayne county by Sheriff Peter Buback, to continue through the nervous hours of the emergency.

Stores in the shopping centers closed early Monday night, and officers closed the bars against invasion by city people looking for liquor with the proclamation of prohibition in Detroit.

Suburban gas stations found business good from people, caught with almost empty tanks and unable to buy fuel in Detroit, who had to drive to outlying areas to fill tanks.

There was a tension around the police stations in the suburbs, as officers wondered whether or when the calls for help might come if the military and the tiring police could not cope with a situation that might become worse before it became better.

In Livonia, Commissioner Donald Nicholson said his more than 100 men in the Police Department were ready and waiting to go to the aid of law and authority in Detroit.

Nicholson said that a pumper and three men, from the Livonia Fire Department had been sent to the Livonia-Lasalle area to help fight fires, hundreds of which had been set—or broken out—in scattered sections of Detroit.

Redford Township had dispatched two trucks and 11 firemen to the city—some of them volunteers. Relief fighters were sent to spell them at night.

Redford Township's 54 police were reshuffled to put more cars on curfew shifts, with detectives assigned to night work. They patrolled the area where there are gas stations, stores and shops, alert for looting.

Redford Township's cruisers helped Detroit police break up a gang at Edgewater Park — Negroes surrounding a bus. They also dispersed several carloads of youths who gathered at Outer Drive and Plymouth road.

They kept eyes on sporting goods stores where guns are part of the stock, an alert against looting.

Westland joined in the Detroit fire fighting with one truck and four firemen.

Farmington Township used 12 patrol cars on the roads, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. instead of the usual four and put men on a 12-hour shift with standby warnings for their sleeping hours of all officers.

Sheriff Buback said that he had been promised "full cooperation" by all the suburban authorities, and would call them for help "only if necessary." He expects them to watch their own front—and backyards.

Code Set In Joint Meeting

Detroit's riot-caused curfew was extended to all of Wayne County Monday afternoon for the duration of the crisis following a meeting of suburban mayors, supervisors, and police chiefs.

The meeting, held in the Wayne County Sheriff Department's Road Patrol office, Michigan Avenue and Henry Road in Westland, saw the officials, including those from Livonia, Plymouth, Garden City, Westland, and Redford Township, unanimously agree to the following restrictions:

• A curfew will be observed from 9 p.m. until 5:30 a.m. and people are asked to stay off the streets.

• During the hours of the curfew, all places of public assembly will be closed, especially gas stations, theaters, movies, bars, drive-in restaurants, poolrooms, and bowling alleys.

• Prohibited is the sale of liquor during all hours. This includes taverns, party stores and other grocery stores which sell whiskey, beer, and wine.

• Prohibited is the sale of firearms, ammunition and knives for the duration of the emergency.

• The sale of gasoline by cans and containers is prohibited for the rest of the emergency period. Included in the order is all flammable materials.

The officials agreed that all of the special rules will remain in effect until the state of emergency is publicly announced as off.

During the meeting, a River Rouge police chief said that his city and the neighboring community of Ecorse is the site of a gathering of 500 to 1,000 youngsters who jeered policemen and promised to "burn" the cities Monday night.

In related action, the Wayne County suburban officials promised a minimum number of officers to take part in Sheriff Peter L. Buback's proposed Tactical Mobile Unit, composed of policemen from all of the Wayne County cities and townships to afford a large force on short notice to handle civil disorders.

The "Tactical Mobile Unit" force, first proposed in mid-June by Buback, had the following commitments made by local officials:

• Livonia, 15 men and four police cars; Westland, three men and one car; Garden City, two men and one car; Redford Township, six men and two cars; Plymouth, two men and one car; Northville, two men and one car; and the sheriff's department, 50 men and 15 cars.

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Miligan said he had "no answers" for financing the civic center site expansion or the C&O grade separation on Middle Belt Road.

Plan For Five Mile Project

Livonia City Councilman Edward G. Miligan has proposed a unique method of financing the improvement of Five Mile Road, in a meeting between councilmen, city planners, and members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Miligan proposed using an act which permits the Wayne County Road Commission to build storm sewers, for the City to acquire the right of way on one side of the road,

where the Road Commission would install sewers.

The county would credit the city with this as the city's 40 percent share of construction costs, \$1,720,000 of the total \$4,300,000.

This would help extend the financing over 30 years, and it would appear on the citizen's tax bill as a county drain tax. Miligan indicated the Road Commission "would be amenable" to this proposal.

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