

# RAPP BROWN SOUGHT ON CHARGES OF INCITING CAMBRIDGE VIOLENCE

## 5 Injured, 2-Block Area Devastated By Blazes

EVE. SUN

By Frank Megargee  
(Staff Correspondent)

Cambridge, Md.—Authorities sought to arrest a militant black power advocate today after a night of shooting and burning left five persons injured and a two-block area devastated in this Eastern Shore community.

H. Rapp Brown, national chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, was charged with inciting to riot and inciting to burn as a result of a fiery speech which preceded the long night of disorder.

Dorchester county State's Attorney William Yates said the warrants for Brown were issued early today based on witnesses' accounts and tape recordings of Brown's speech. EVE. SUN

Asked if he knew where Brown was today, Mr. Yates said: "I don't know. I presume he's hiding." The State's attorney also said he was seeking extradition if Brown shows in another state.

Five hundred National Guardsmen patrolled the streets this morning while officials sought to estimate the extent of destruction.

By morning, the fires that blazed on both sides of Pine street, in the Negro Second ward, has been extinguished, but officials counted at least seventeen buildings destroyed or damaged. Included were eleven busi-

nesses and a public school.

### No Looting

Eyewitnesses said there didn't appear to be any looting.

Among the injured were Brown, a Cambridge policeman and three volunteer firemen.

Brown was treated for a shotgun pellet wound in the head at a Cambridge Hospital and was released as no charges had been filed against him at that time.

The policeman, Arthur Wroten, 26, was hospitalized with pellet wounds in the arms, face and hand. His condition was said to be "fairly satisfactory."

The firemen, whose names were not available, were treated for smoke inhalation.

### Burch Leads Firemen

As flames licked at buildings in the Negro Second ward, Francis B. Burch, State attorney general, donned a firefighters hard hat and led reluctant firemen into the area. They had feared snipers. EVE. SUN

"The trucks weren't going in," Mr. Burch explained today. "I urged firemen to go since police had been sent in to protect them. The firemen said, 'why don't you go in.' So I did."

Governor Agnew arrived here from Ocean City before dawn and toured the Second Ward with Adjutant General George M. Gelston, whom he appointed to take command in the troubled community.

### Governor Denounces Brown

After the tour, the Governor held a press conference at which he denounced Brown as a "rabble rouser" and said he was responsible for outbreak of violence.

Brown spoke to about 350 persons from the hood of a parked car in a vacant lot in the Second Ward last night. In the speech, which began at 9 o'clock and lasted an hour, he told Cambridge Negroes to "start talking about taking your community and controlling it."

"You've got to be proud to be black. You can't go around here calling yourself Negro."

### "Name Hunky Gave You"

"That's a name the hunky gave you. JUL 25 1967

"They give you five nigger cops but they can't whip nothing but black heads. How come they can't whip no hunkies?"

"It's time for Cambridge to explode, baby. Black folks built America and if America don't come around, we're going to burn American down.

"I don't know who burned the school down (a reference a previous fire at a Second ward school), but you should have burned it down long ago. Then you should have taken over the new elementary school on the other side of town.

"You better get yourselves some guns. The man is out to get you.

"The hunky press doesn't say anything about rebelling—they called it rioting. Conditions create rebellion—not people.

#### Advertised In Crude Posters

"We's not rioting—we're rebelling. That's what's going on."

Brown's appearance had been advertised days in advance by crude, handwritten posters displayed on utility poles and store windows of this Eastern Shore community of 13,000, about one fourth of whom are Negro.

The crowd dispersed after the speech. But about 11 P.M. gunshots were heard in the Second Ward.

About 11:15, Patrolman Wroten was hit by shotgun pellets while driving his patrol car through the Negro section in answer to a call.

#### School Fire

A Negro witness, Bernard Young, 20, said he was the first fire break out in one corner of the Pine Street Elementary School about 2 A.M.

The flames, he said, looked a little Christmas tree." Within 45 minutes, he said, one side of the block was afire.

Another Negro witness, Linton King, Sr., 50, said the firemen finally arrived on the scene about 3:30 A.M.

Mr. Young said firemen and their trucks waited at the edge of the Negro district around Race and Muir streets. "We went and asked them to fight the fire, but they wouldn't come in."

#### Both Sides Ablaze

Finally, he said, one white fireman drove a truck in with about seven Negroes aboard and they began to fight the fire. Mr. King said that after the firemen arrived, both whites and Negroes pitched in to fight the blaze. JUL 25 1967

By this time, the row of brick

and frame businesses and homes on both sides of a block of Pine street were ablaze, plus buildings on two adjacent streets.

A fireman at the scene said they were held back under orders, both in order to protect buildings adjacent to the burning area and also because "we certainly weren't going in there without some protection."

He said that about 50 Negroes came out finally and escorted the firemen in. One fireman referred to Negroes as "a bunch of good fellows. If we hadn't had their protection, I don't know what would have happened."

The flames were brought under control about 5 A.M. By that time, either destroyed or badly damaged were the following buildings:

Pine Street Elementary School, a barber shop, cleaning establishment, the Savoy bar, pool room and motel, a record shop and an apartment house on one side of Pine street.

On the opposite side of Pine street a bar and grill, restaurant, apartment house, barber shop, coffee shop and the area's Democratic headquarters.

On Cross street, which intersects Pine, the Zion Baptist Church and a residence.

On another intersecting street, Dunn's court, three houses.

#### Gas, Oil Explosions

Firemen said that the work of fighting the flames was made especially hazardous by exploding oil drums and propane gas tanks. JUL 25 1967

At about 4 A.M., the flames brought down high-tension wires on Pine street and caused a widespread blackout in the city.

Power was restored in "most places" by 8 A.M., according to a spokesman for the Delmarva Power and Light Company.

#### State Troopers Leave

As National Guard troops took over patrol of the city today, about 100 State troopers called out last night were sent back to their normal duties.

The Guardsmen from a Lower Shore unit who have been patrolling the riot-torn section of the city since early today are slated to be relieved this afternoon with men from the 2d Battalion of the 175th National

Guard Infantry stationed at Dundalk.

The 800-man unit was called up for duty at 6 A.M. today and was scheduled to arrive in Cambridge between 2 P.M. and 3 P.M. The men in the unit are from Dundalk, Glen Burnie, Belair, Elkton, Centreville and Chestertown.

Cambridge has been in the center of racial turmoil since January, 1967, when integration demonstrations were held at several restaurants and taverns in the city.

#### Riots In 1963

No major outbreaks occurred until the summer of 1963 when large-scale riots were held. Rioters set fire to business places and a number of persons were injured from gunfire.

The demonstrations allegedly were over housing, jobs and public accommodations.

The Maryland National Guard was sent in to quell the riots June 14, 1963, and was withdrawn July 8, only to be sent back four days later. The troops began to withdraw slowly July 24, two days after a agreement bringing the riots to a halt was signed.

Peace gradually returned to the city in the fall and winter months of 1963 and 1964.



H. RAPP BROWN



AT THE SCENE—Governor Agnew and Adjutant Gen. George Gelston (rear) confer with citizens of troubled Cambridge.