



Housing Protest Repelled

City Hall Rout In Watsonville

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Mercury Staff Writers

WATSONVILLE — An angry crowd of 100 Mexican - Americans demanding immediate action to solve Watsonville's housing problem for low - income families was ousted from City Hall Tuesday night.

Before the disturbance had cooled, two demonstrators had been arrested, a woman who had jumped on police was hit on the head, and a reserve police officer had been injured and taken to Watsonville Community Hospital.

Two demonstrators, identified as John Sanchez, 34, of 504 Bay View, Rio Del Mar, and Ramon Hernandez Martinez, 36, of 24 Little Way Ln., Watsonville, were arrested on charges of refusing to leave a public building.

The reserve officer, Rick Elliot, reportedly was kicked in the groin and sent to the hospital where he was treated and released.

After being dispersed from City Hall, the crowd jammed the entrance of the jail on Union street where Martinez and Sanchez were being held, shouting for their release.

A squad of 25 Santa Cruz County sheriff's deputies was called in to aid the 10-man Watsonville force.

The demonstrators kept shouting for the two men's release. Someone finally passed a hat and collected \$130 bail to free them.

The demonstrators were protesting housing conditions for Mexican - Americans in the Watsonville area. Among them were a number of students from the Santa Cruz campus of the University of California, and from nearby Cabrillo College. The rest were Watsonville area residents.

The demonstrators started arriving at City Hall at 4:30 p.m. Some displayed banner - like signs with the slogan, "We Need Housing."

After milling around the city hall plaza entrance for 20 minutes, the demonstrators moved into the building. They stood in the lobby next to the City Council chambers.

Some of the younger demon-

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Gaullists Endorse

Pompidou

BLACK BERETS—Members of the Chicano Black Berets link arms in Watsonville City Hall in a vain attempt to halt the Watsonville Police. Police cleared city hall foyer in 10 minutes, arresting two men. One officer was slightly injured.

SELLS BANK STOCK

Proposal For Direct Vote OK'd

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Housing Protest In Watsonville

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demonstrators sat on the floor, forming small circles.

Watsonville Mayor William Murphy addressed the group, describing the steps the city is taking to try to solve its housing problems.

Cool and talking in measured sentences, Murphy said the city will send a delegation to San Francisco Thursday to meet with Federal Housing Authority officials to see what can be done to speed up federal aid programs for the area.

Mayor Murphy said federal officials already have agreed to attend the May 6 City Council meeting called to discuss the housing problems.

The mayor, noting that it was past the 5 p.m. closing time for City Hall, asked the demonstrators to leave.

"We won't leave — not until the council comes here today and listens to us," said Sanchez, who ran for the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees last month and was defeated.

The crowd applauded.

At about 5:15 p.m., Aran A. Ardaiz, who brought the housing issue to a head by appearing before the council last week demanding a series of meetings to discuss housing needs, asked the people to leave the building.

"We have made our point — we have won concessions," Ardaiz said. The crowd, however, stood fast. Later, about half went outside.

When part of the crowd remained in the City Hall, Murphy asked them to leave again. They refused again.

Assistant Police Chief Roy Ingersoll had Detective Manuel Martinez read in Spanish the law requiring them to leave the building. The demonstrators refused once again and answered the assistant chief's request with insults. Police moved in and forced the demonstrators outside.

Inocencia Cobos, of Watsonville, who claimed she is 83, reportedly was struck on the head by an officer. She was taken to a hospital and treated.

"I told them to leave my son alone," she told a reporter. "It's not his fault he is fighting for his rights. They knocked me down and pulled me along the ground."

The Black Beret organization was represented at the demonstration by Ray Martinez, who said chapters are being formed in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

"We are not a militant group. We are here to do what the local people want us to do."

Frank Ryerson, 18, a student at UCSC, said students were demonstrating as individuals and were not representing any particular group.

At a late hour Tuesday night, the demonstration had broken up. Some of the demonstrators were meeting in the Office of Economic Opportunity center.

Most of the police officers and sheriff's deputies had

been dispersed at a late hour Tuesday night.

On Monday, about 60 persons gathered on the steps of the City Hall demanding immediate steps to solve the housing problems.

The people said they will return tonight and "every night" until the City Council starts holding a series of meetings to air housing grievances.

The council has indicated it won't meet any sooner than on May 6.

Ardaiz told the crowd Monday he had filed a complaint against a building at 142-B Riverside Dr. He threatens to file other complaints for each day the council does not hold public meetings requested.

Under the city's unsafe structure code, the city must inspect each building and make a finding.

Murphy claims the council is proceeding as fast as possible in solving the housing problem. He said he agreed that new housing is needed and that some housing in the city is in bad shape.

Ardaiz, however, contends that city officials for years have been dragging their feet on solving the problems of housing for low income persons.

Last week plans were announced for a large housing project for low-income families. But persons claim the rents would be too high for most farm workers to pay.

BIG U.S. AIR LOSS

Enemy's Guns Quiet 1st Time

From UPI, AP

SAIGON — Allied troops and tanks killed 132 North Vietnamese soldiers in fighting along infiltration routes from Cambodia and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), military spokesmen said today.

Military spokesmen also reported no significant Communist shelling attacks had occurred overnight against either military bases or towns. It was believed this was the first time no shellings at all had been reported since the Communists began their offensive Feb. 22-23.

Military spokesmen also reported Tuesday the loss of three American helicopters and a \$2 million F4 (Phantom) jet to Communist gunfire. It was the costliest one-day loss of aircraft in about six weeks. Two Americans were killed and five wounded.

The new U.S. bomber offensive against Communist hideouts near Saigon and Da Nang continued with six overnight raids that dropped an estimated 540 tons of bombs on Red positions.

U.S. Vietnamese units also reported capturing 52 tons of ammunition and food in two widely separated Communist caches near the northern A Shau Valley and near Hoi An.

U.S. communiques said American tanks, infantry and helicopter gunships accounted for 47 of the 132 North Vietnamese killed Tuesday when the tank-infantry column ran up against a Communist bunker complex 60 miles northwest of Saigon near Cambodia. The Americans lost four dead and 30 wounded in three hours of fighting, spokesmen said.

Two 600-man South Vietnamese battalions killed another 85 North Vietnamese Tuesday in a sweep through rolling brush country near the DMZ, spokesmen said. Government losses were described as light in the fighting 5 miles northwest of Cam Lo.

Troops of the 9th Infantry Division and government militia fought several brief battles with Viet Cong in the Mekong Delta region 60 miles south east of Saigon, officials said Tuesday. Communist dead were numbered at 34, and American losses at four dead and three wounded. There were no South Vietnamese casualties.

Shockley's Proposal Dies Again

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The National Academy of Sciences, the country's foremost scientific body, Tuesday overwhelmingly refused even to consider the view that millions of genetically inferior children, primarily black, are being produced in the United States.

By a vote of approximately 200 to 10 — in a show of hands in closed session — the scientists voted to table a proposal to urge expanded study of heredity and "our national human quality."

The proposal was made by Dr. William Shockley, Nobel-prize Stanford University physicist and one of the inventors of the transistor — the tiny electronic bit that has revolutionized communications.