643 -8800

TAPED INTERVIEW WITH DR. VERNON, CITY HOSPTTAL JULY 16, 1967

484-3030 12:30 P.M.

Dr E. W. Vernon. Office at 18 So. 8th--surgeon. I was asked by the Office of the Chief Surgeon of Newark City Hospital to assist in the care of the wounded--~~xxxx~~ on the surgical staff. Help in care of wounded as result of request made Friday, July 14. Following day I arrived myself at 7:25 P.M. July 15, 1967. Remained on duty through the night until 6:30 A.M., July 16. Upon arriving at the hospital, the first patient that I observed was a National Guardsman who was in hysteria. A few minutes later, at approximately 7:43 P.M. there was a DOA (dead on arrival) young female patient who was partially eviscerated, apparently as result of high-velocity missile. The history was given by presumably one of the relatives that she had been shot with machine gun fire as the result of standing at her window in the Central Ward. Ambulence stated that she had been picked up from another ambulence. A short while later a young Negro female who gave her address at 244 Bergen Street, gave a history that she was shot through her third floor window in the right shoulder as she stood observing.

Approximately 8:10 thefe was another DOA. A young female of gunshot wound of the temporal region. Did not obtain the address nor the details as to how the injury occurred. Approximately 8:25 a young Negro male came in with injuries to the head and gave a history that he was told to get inside his house by the police officers and when he demurred he was attacked by them.

Approximately 9:45 P.M. a white young male entered receiving room at Martland with a gunshot wound of the right lumbar region. History not obtained on this patient.

(6) Later a middle-aged Negro man came in with burns of the body. History of that: a Molotov Cocktail was thrown at him. I beg your pardon, this was a white gentleman with Molotov Cocktail burns.

Next was a middle-aged man, gave history that 2 white boys threw Molotov Cocktails in his ~~xx~~ window at place of business. I did not get exact details, and the cops while attempting to shoot at the white assailants shot him instead accidently, he stated. At approximately 10:30 P.M. there was a gunshot would at summit of head, - a large gaping wound in the skull.

A young Negro male - who was fairly moribund. He was seen immediately by neuro-surgeon (who volunteered and did a yoeman job thrpughout the night) - do want to commend him highly. The young Negro male was taken immediately to the ~~xxxxx~~ operating room where attempt was made to save his life but it was obvious from the injury he had that his chances were very slim. Of course he died on the operating table. There ware several Negro patients who came in, stating they had been beaten by police. One had gunshot wound on his face and in addition was beaten by police. Do not have names or details.

Two Puerto Ricans next seen of superficial gunshot wounds of chest. Did not get their address but they said they lived on first floor and in process of sitting or at least observing. Shots were fired from the window, struck them in the chest. They were not seriously injured. There was a drunk individaul with alcoholic aroma to his breath. Evidence of alcoholic intoxication,-beaten on the head. He stated that

he was beaten by the police. Subsequently there were 2 gunshot wounds of the head, one of the back part, another was the lower part of the head involving the jaw. Both were Negroes and they were in fairly good condition. Upon checking at 6:30 I was told they are in good condition.

At about midnight and past they were coming in so fast and furious, it was impossible to take an accurate check on what was going on. Chief Surgeon Rollins had assigned me to assist in operation on a white male who had received gunshot wound of the left flank. There were 3 other gunshot wound of the head that came in. (~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

There was a gunshot wound in the back of a young Puerto Rican female who stated that she was. History was given that she was lying on her bed and a shot entered her window in this particular portion of the body. General condition was good at the time. I would like to summarize these observations thusly. Number 1, it appears to me as though a large percentage of the victims were innocently involved as attested to by the two young Negro women who were dead on arrival at the city hospital with history having been give that they were shot at through their windows. Number 2, I would like to emphasize that people be cautioned to stay away from the windows because, again, a high percentage of those injured by high velocity missiles were donw so while standing at their window. Number 3: I would ~~x~~ like to commend the staff of City Hospital for the job they did ~~xxxx~~ during this particular night

...18 So. 8th--surgeon. I was ...
...City Hospital to assist ...

which I was able to observe and assist them. Realizing there was no possibility of organization to care for a situation which developed so suddenly. Nevertheless the crew, and it was for the most part a white crew, did a yoeman job in caring for those who were injured. It is my understanding that a number of the nurses, who were predominantly white, had been working around the clock with very little rest. Likewise the interns and the residents who were there worked very conscienciously in working for the injured as best that could be handled. The receiving room situation was fairly well organized, though I would like to add a workd of criticism for the admission of so many reporters, news photographers and television cameras who I thought at times impeded the process of caring for the sick. I would also like to commend the Dr. Irving Rollins, Chief of Surgery, for his conscientious work during the night. I was able to observe him. Though we have personal differences, nevertheless I must commend him and be honest enough to commend him for doingthe job he did last night. If I am needed further at the hospital and if the UCC so suggests that I do so, I would be happy to to be available again for whatever help I can in our strife-torn community.