

21 Officers Hurt Battling Communist Worker Groups

By LES LEDBETTER

Twenty-one police officers were injured yesterday during two separate clashes with club-wielding members of the Communist Workers Party who were attempting to disrupt Democratic Party functions, according to the police.

Two members of the group also managed to get into Madison Square Garden last night and briefly disrupt the convention while President Carter was speaking.

Nineteen of the protesters were arrested in the evening clash and three were arrested in the afternoon disturbance.

In one of the incidents, 15 policemen were injured outside Madison Square Garden just before President Carter addressed the Democratic National Convention last night. Earlier, six officers were injured outside the Plaza Hotel on Central Park South shortly after noon, about an hour before President Carter arrived for a Democratic Party victory banquet there, the police said.

The injured police officers were

treated at Bellvue Hospital and St. Clare's Hospital and Health Centers for a variety of injuries, including inhalation of Chemical Mace, and released.

According to the police, the evening clash occurred when approximately 300 demonstrators, many with four-foot bats and ax handles approached the police lines outside the Garden at 33d Street and Eighth Avenue at about 9:40 P.M.

They stopped at the police line for about 20 minutes. Every fifth or sixth person wore a crash helmet with a visor and some of them carried Mace, officers said.

"Pay back for Miami and Greensboro," many of the demonstrators chanted, apparently referring to clashes their group has had in those cities.

Inside the Garden, at about the same time, a few minutes after the President's speech had begun, a sharp staccato burst, like that of firecrackers, was heard in the Garden area off to the President's right. Security men seized a woman who had apparently set off a string of firecrackers. As they exploded, a woman in the balcony section began shouting

slogans of the Communist Workers Party, the police said.

The woman in the balcony was later identified as Dale Sampson, widow of William Sampson, who was killed in Greensboro, North Carolina, last Dec. 3 during a protest march led by the Communist Workers group against the Klu Klux Klan.

Mr. Carter did not seem to hear the firecrackers, amidst the applause many delegates gave his address.

The battle outside the Garden started when one protester hurled a rock at a nearby bank window and a police officer wrestled him to the ground.

Patrick J. Murphy, chief of operations, said the fight was "fast and furious."

Some of the demonstrators struck policemen so hard that their riot helmets cracked and a number of officers suffered bruises that were treated at the scene of the clash, the police said.

After a few minutes of intense struggle, the protesters broke into small groups and dispersed, the police said.

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