

Gun Report Sparks UW March

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(Of The State Journal Staff)

A merchant policeman with a shotgun unwittingly caused a near-confrontation Friday night between chanting, marching University of Wisconsin students and riot-equipped policemen on Capitol Square.

The incident resulted after a student crowd estimated at between 1,000 and 2,000 marched

up State St. and sat down to block traffic on the northwest corner of the Square. It was the second time in two nights that students took their cause, backing black students' demands, to downtown Madison.

AFTER HEARING reports of a man wielding a gun in the area, about 60 to 70 city and county policemen arrived to usher the marchers back to Uni-

versity territory.

As the students sat in the street, one marcher ran to a city policeman directing traffic and shouted: "Hey, Mr. Policeman, there's a man with a rifle up there." He pointed to the third floor of Karstens store, 24 N. Carroll St.

Madison merchant policemen's headquarters are located on the third floor of the building.

IF THE REST of the marchers were aware of the "man with a rifle," they didn't express it.

The policeman nodded, and said, "Don't worry. He's not going to shoot anyone."

The merchant policeman, Ronald Hull, said he picked up the shotgun when he heard a building alarm.

HULL SAID he went out to check and grabbed the shotgun on his way.

"Two Negroes from the march came into the building. I told them they were in a security area, and they left. They didn't do anything wrong," Hull said.

He said he was near a window

when he was carrying the shotgun. He said it was loaded but not cocked.

Hull said that city police told him to call them to handle a similar incident in the future.

POLICE INSPECTOR Herman Thomas said "the incident

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was part of the reason for calling in riot equipped policemen.

"The marchers were oblivious to something that could have been very, very bad," Thomas said.

The march began at the University Library Mall at 7 p.m.

Although it was considerably smaller than Thursday night's display, it had more vigor and momentum.

IT BEGAN with a black student spokesman complimenting whites and blacks for their show of support. "Baby, you're looking beautiful," he said.

He announced somewhat angrily that a young co-ed was injured by a car earlier in the day "because some fool thought he would plow right through us."

"We have his license plate number and know where he works," he said. He then asked for witnesses.

AS THE students marched up State St., they chanted, "On Strike — Shut It Down!" The tempo was rapid until the demonstrators reached busy intersections. Road guards marched almost a block head to direct and divert traffic.

The only sign of policemen could be seen at the northwest corner of the Square where two city squad cars were parked and a policeman in the intersection directing traffic.

In the State Capitol, policemen silently stood watch.

THE STUDENTS sat down at Karstens and chanted, "Hey, Hey, Chancellor Young, Black Demands Will Be Won!" In five minutes, they were up and marching back on State St.

When the students reached the 200 block, the force of policemen came toward them from behind. The policemen forced the crowd onto the sidewalks with the aid of their clubs which were held with both hands in a blocking position.

No clubs were swung, but two demonstrators were arrested for refusing police orders to move.

POLICE FOLLOWED the students, keeping a distance of about 75 to 100 feet from those that remained on State St. Some policemen ran to the sidewalks to prod students into moving faster.

When the crowd reached the Library Mall, the policemen stopped and lined the streets facing the sidewalks. Only a few demonstrators shouted at them.

When the students saw that the police would remain as long as necessary, shouts of "Go Home!" came from the sidewalk crowd. The demonstrators began dispersing at about 8:05 p.m.