

Father McMullin, Holy Name Church

Father McMullin, on the afternoon of April 9, Tuesday, was standing by the dining room window of the Dominican Fathers Rectory at 2127 Benton when he saw swarms of kids, walking and in cars, coming toward Holy Name Church across the street from the rectory. Just then the telephone rang, it was someone from KPRS telling McMullin of the dance planned for ^{here} there as a cooling off by KPRS. McMullin walked over, unlocked the church basement. On the way out he saw Warner standing nearby and someone was asking for water for him.

More kids began arriving-McMullin saw them from his position at the dining room window of the rectory where he returned after opening the church. 5 minutes, maybe longer passed before he saw the police arrive-it seemed as if a lot of cars (8-10) arrived all at once, they got ^{out} of cars and the next thing McMullin saw were the puffs of smoke from the tear gas cannisters. He had heard no gun or other popping sounds. McNamara McMullin ran out of the rectory and toward the church, but he didn't get nearer than 25 feet ^{when} ~~then~~ the smoke got in his eyes" and he turned and ran the other direction for about a block until he got the smoke out of his eyes. By the time he ran back to the church most of the students had dispersed. Watkins, Blankinship and Curtis McClinton were standing asking the crowd what had happened-there were still about 100 people standing around. Blankinship and McMullin then drove together downtown to the mayor's office to make their complaint. The mayor's office was full with people coming and going, telling of incidents, making protests, counseling the mayor. Bishop Wells came in while they were there.

For about a year preceding the April 9, Holy Name had sponsored dances every Sunday nite in the Church basement-KPRS disc-jockeyed at these

affairs and they were most always well attended with between 750-1000 students present at each. There had never been any trouble inside the dance, tho 5-6 times there had been fights once they got outside. There were usually from 2 to 6 non-uniformed, off-duty, black police present who frisked and all boys and a policewoman who checked the girls for weapons.

It is McMullin opinion that the kids coming to Holy Name that afternoon were coming knowing that it would be a peaceful dance as that was what it had always been before. The trouble was, McMullin felt, was that the cops who came were not familiar with the dances, came expecting riotous behavior ...McMullin adds that he differs with Father Timothy Gibbons on this point cause Gibbons feels that the police came deliberately looking for victims to beat and oppress.