

Dr. John Ramos

On Wednesday, Dr. Ramos heard the rumor that there was a disturbance at Lincoln. He called the Board of Education to ask what was going on, but was told by someone he doesn't remember that the police had gassed the kids. Dr. Ramos got in his car and drove to 22 and Woodland where in a lot behind Lincoln Jr. the students from Lincoln were gathering. They were angry about gassing, about two cars were driving up to lot discharging loads of kids. Watkins and Blankinship were also there. The three of them approached the leaders and set up a meeting for that evening at the Heart of America Restaurant where they could let off steam, air grievances etc.

Watkins, Blankinship, Earl Thomas, E. O'Neal, all chipped in money to buy the chicken dinners for that night's dinner. (Woody Hall was also at that lot) Ramos remembers the dinner as being set for 8. The "punks" there acted "badly" according to Ramos, ranting and raving against them and what they were doing, calling them all Uncle Tom's. As one was saying, "if you Uncle Toms aren't doing anything so we're going to burn this town down," Ramos and the others heard the fire engines going up 31st street. They went outside then and could see the flames shooting up from area of 31 and Indiana. Ramos said to Ollie Gates, that looks like it's close to you, you'd better get up there and see about your place."

Ramos remembers that Mr. Glenn Travis called him over the week-end after King's death and polled Ramos on whether he thought School should be open. Travis said when he called that KCK schools would be closed, ~~and that they~~ <sup>Ramos</sup> had heard that Ks. kids would be coming to heckle Mol kids. Ramos sez now that he recommended that school be closed at least during the hours during funeral and if it lasted too long, school should be dismissed for the day.

On Tuesday nit, both McNeven and Travis called Ramos to see what he thought about school opening on Wed. Of course, Ramos thought it should be closed.

On Wed, at the Board of Education meeting the board

generally felt that Travis had not acted as he should in Hazlet's absence and a new procedure for the line of command in Hazlet's absence was discussed. The conference with Kelley was proposed and discussed. Principle criticisms were the police use of gas and the ostentatious show of force. The procedure for limited use of police cars in sight of schools was evolved.

On Sunday, in the afternoon as Ramos recalls, the board met in Kelley's office. The Board of Police Commissioners was present, some of the command staff. The Board of Ed. made their complaints as planned. The Police Board attempted to make amends by saying that some of the men had been indiscriminate, were fatigued etc., but they (the police) were not going to make such statements publicly.