



**AFTERMATH OF VIOLENCE**—Interior of a Toyota dealership at 615 S. Atlantic Ave. that was

burned along with new autos in the riot that followed a Chicano rally Sunday in East Los Angeles.  
Times photo by Frank Q. Brown

# Chicano Violence Laid to Mob That Ignored Monitors

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Youths who outraced monitors from a peaceful Chicano Moratorium in Belvedere Park and ran in a screaming mob to the main business district of East Los Angeles were blamed Monday for burning and pillaging Sunday in the nation's biggest barrio.

Authorities said the young men reached shop-lined Whittier Blvd. just as a small force of sheriff's deputies arrived to halt them. There was a blast of gunfire that left one young man dead and 19 wounded—and the mob spread out down the boulevard, burning and looting.

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess canceled a scheduled press conference Monday and declined all comment pending a report on the violence before the Board of Supervisors at 10 a.m. today. A spokesman said the sheriff was still evaluating evidence.

U.S. Marshal Gaylord Campbell, who had deputy marshals observing the scene, said the riot was "definitely started by agitators" and appeared to have been "a planned operation."

### Terms Violence Spontaneous

A Chicano spokesman, however, termed the violence a spontaneous occurrence and said it might have been triggered "by the sheriff's firing squad tactics."

It was the fourth time in five months that rallies planned as peaceful Chicano protests against the Indochina war and police-community relations have ended in violence.

### The toll of Sunday's outbreak:

Dead: Gustav Montag Jr., 24, a native of Sternowitz, Austria, who lived with relatives at 2208 Tuller Road. A spokesman for the Sheriff's Department said he was evidently struck by a ricocheting shotgun pellet that pierced his heart.

The coroner's office said Montag had recently dropped out of East Los Angeles College, where he had been enrolled in a Hebrew course.

Injured: 17 adults and two juveniles hit by gunshots, one of them critically wounded; five adults and two juveniles with other injuries; 10 sheriff's deputies and a woman reserve deputy with minor injuries.

The only victim remaining in cri-

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# Youths Who Ignored Monitors Blamed for Chicano Outburst

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tical condition was identified as Felix Cadena, 21. He was at County-USC Medical Center, under treatment for gunshot wounds in the neck, leg and arm.

Arrested: 63 adult men, eight adult women, 19 male juveniles.

Damaged: 12 sheriff's cars, one Highway Patrol car, two floodlights and a sign at the East Los Angeles sheriff's station; more than 80 stores and shops with glass or fire damage.

Destroyed: a bail bond office and the main structure of Mid Cities Toyota, 615 Atlantic Blvd., where damage was estimated at more than \$150,000. Six cars were also destroyed at the car agency.

A curfew imposed in the area by Pitchess with the concurrence of Warren M. Dorn, chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, was lifted at 5 a.m. Monday. No further restrictions were imposed.

## Followed Peaceful Rally

In the aftermath to the Sunday violence, Dorn asked Pitchess and County Fire Chief Richard H. Houts to report to the board of supervisors today.

Said Dorn:

"It has been proven most conclusively that there was no provocation by police or the sheriff's office in any way."

U.S. Atty. Robert L. Meyer also issued a statement, in which he praised Pitchess' men for "professionalism" and "restraint," and added:

"Unfortunately, a small group of persons did a great disservice to the Mexican-American community by provoking the violence."

Pitchess kept his men almost completely out of sight during Sunday's Chicano Moratorium rally at Belvedere Park. It wasn't until after the rally broke up that the crowd of youths raced toward the business district, first pelting the nearby station—where Pitchess was inside—with a barrage of missiles.

Said Supervisor Kenneth Hahn Monday:

"I think we must have a reappraisal of these types of marches, regardless of how well-intentioned they are, to guarantee they will not erupt into a battleground."

Said Rosalio Munoz, co-chairman of the Moratorium, in a meeting with other Chicano leaders at the East Los Angeles Community Union, 274 S. Atlantic:

"The police opened fire with guns against people with sticks and stones. There was no order to disperse, no tear gas fired. They used Russian tactics. They let the people come in and then they opened fire on them. They drew them in and then opened fire with guns."

(Sheriff's deputies, not Los Angeles police, did the firing.)

Munoz said that monitors were using bullhorns to disperse the crowd from Belvedere Park toward the north—away from the sheriff's station and Whittier Blvd.—when a group surged to the south.

"I was making efforts to get bullhorns from the sheriff to get to the front of the crowd and disperse it," he said, "but they said they couldn't get them. We didn't get any kind of cooperation. The monitors tried to get to the front of the crowd but before they could force their way to the front the police had opened fire."

But Roberto Cruz, an official of KMEX, the Spanish-language television station, said he was at the corner of Arizona St. and Whittier Blvd. as the crowd of young men reached the scene.

"They were coming down Arizona, screaming and waving rocks and



**CHARGE** — Rosalio Munoz, Chicano Moratorium leader, asserts deputies used "firing squad tactics" in violence. Times photo by Bruce Cox

what looked like sticks," he said. "I tried to talk to some of them, to ask them to go home, and one wanted to fight me."

"It looked like a thousand of them were streaming down the street. Then one sheriff's car arrived with three or four officers in it. The mob kept on coming. The officers stepped back a few paces, firing in the air. I ducked and when there were more shots I looked up and saw men falling."

The crowd spread out under the gunfire but roamed Whittier Blvd. and adjacent business streets for hours in smaller groups, smashing windows, looting and setting fires.

Sheriff's officers collected evidence Monday—including numerous pieces of steel pipe about a foot long, some wrapped in newspaper. Officers were investigating the origin of the pipes, which were used as missiles as the mobs clashed with deputies Sunday.

Richard Martinez, vice president of the Congress of Mexican-American Unity, was among a group of Chicano leaders who met with Munoz.

He said that after the rally in the park ended and trouble developed around the sheriff's station, he, Munoz and another man went to the station to try to "keep things calm."

"The crowd went on," he said. "I tried to get up in front of it, but it had gone on. There didn't seem to be a leader, it was more of a spontaneous thing."

When he arrived at the corner of Arizona St. and Whittier Blvd., he said, sheriff's deputies had opened fire on youths in the street.

## Collapses From Wound

"One guy was knocked into his back," Martinez said. "The other one was shot in the neck. He collapsed and blood was shooting from his neck."

"There hadn't been any burning or looting until then, but when people saw those two dudes shot, the crowd just went berserk."

Eason Monroe, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Southern California, sent a telegram to Pitchess, commending him and his men for their attempts to cooperate with moratorium organizers and concurring with the sheriff's statement that his men had not provoked the violence.

"However," the telegram added, "as the tragic turn of events following the rally demonstrated, there is still great hostility to law enforcement presence and practices in East Los Angeles."