Chicano Violence Laid to Mob That Ignored Monitors

BY DIAL TORGERSON

Youths who outnumbered monitors from a peaceful Chicano Moratorium in Belvedere Park 2 to 1 in a slum district of East Los Angeles were blocked Tuesday for burning and pilfering Sunday in the nation's biggest battle.

Authorities said the young men reached shop-lined Whittier Blvd. and set a small force of sheriff's deputies aside, where they were attacked by a mob spreading 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 on Sunday's outbreak:

Dead: Gustavo Montal Jr., 24, a native of Sternowitz, Austria, who lived in relatives at 2328 Fuller Road. A spokesman for the Sheriff's Department said he was evidently struck by a ricocheting shotgun pel- let that pierced his heart.

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

Injuries: 17 adults and two juveniles hit by gunshot, 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 criti-

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Youths Who Ignored Monitors Blamed for Chicano Outburst

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tical condition was identified as Fa-
lix Cedena, 21. He was at County-
USC Medical Center, under treat-
ment for gunshot wounds in the
leg and leg.
Arrested: 63 adult men, eight adult
women, 19 juveniles.
In the surrounding area, drivers' cars, one Highway Patrol car, two floodlights and a sign at the East Los Angeles sheriff's substation were shot at and shops with fire or glass damage.
Destroyed: a bail bond office and the main pool, 615 Atlantic Blvd., where
damage was estimated at more than $200,000. The building was de-
stroyed at the car agency.

A curfew imposed in the area by
Pitchea with the concurrence of
Warren M. Dorn, chairman of the
Los Angeles County Board of Sheriffs
visors, was lifted at 5 a.m. Monday. No
further restrictions were im-
posed.

Followed Peaceful Rally

In the aftermath to the Sunday vi-
olence, Dorn asked Pitchea and the county supervisors to report to the board of supervisors to-

Dorn said.

"It has been proven most conclu-
sively that violence is not stop-

by police or the sheriff's office in
any way.

"Robert L. Meyer also ised a
statement, in which he praised Pitchea's men for "profes-
sionalism" and "restraint," and ad-

"Unfortunately, a small group of people decided to follow the spirit of
Mexican-American community by physically and by forces.

Pitchea kept his men almost com-
pletely out of sight during Sunday's events. He was at Bel-
dere Park. It wasn't until after the
rally broke up that the crowd of
chicanos forced its way out into the

District, first pelting the nearby sta-

where Pitchea was inside-

with a barrage of missiles.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn Muni-

"I think we must have a reappraisal
of these sorts of marches, re-

threaten violence, for the sake of
they are, to guarantee they will not
rupt into a battleground.

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 clubs and
stones. There was no order to dis-
persal of the crowd. The same
Russian tactics. They let the people
come in and then opened fire on
them. They drew them in and then
opened fire with guns."

(Sheriff's deputies, not Los An-
geles 1st District.

Munoz said that monitors were
using bullhorns to disperse the
people. Then they forced them to
the north-away from the sheriff's
station. Then, he said, the mob
when a group surged to the north.

"I was making efforts to get bull-

horns to the sheriff's station, to

front of the crowd and disperse it," he
said, "but they said they couldn't
in the crowd."

The monitors tried to get to the
front of the crowd but had to give
them. The monitors tried to get to the
front of the crowd but had to give

Roberto Cruz, an official of KMEX,
station, said he was at the cor-
during the shooting. Cruz and

as the crowd of young men

rose.

"The shooting down Arizona, screaming and waving rocks

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
n the car. 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
guns but reformed Whittier and
adjacent business streets for
hours in smaller groups, smashing
windows, looting and setting fires.

Sheriff's officers col-
lected evidence Monday—including num-

ules of pieces of steel pipes about a
foot long, some wrapped in

"Officers were investigating the origi-

pipes, which were used as
missiles as the mobs clashed with
departments.

Richard Martinez, vice president of the
Congress of Mexican-Am-

Los Angeles and other Chicano leaders who met with Mun-

He said that after the rally in
the park ended and trouble developed
around the sheriff's station, he,

Munoz went to the station to try to "keep things calm,"

"I tried to get up in front of the crowd,

had gone on. There didn't seem to be a
leader, it was more of a sponta-

taneous 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 a

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 the

as two dud shots, the crowd just went berserk."

Elson Monroe, executive director of
the American Civil Liberties Union in Northern California, sent a
telegram to Pitchea, commending
him and his men for their attempts
to cooperate with moratorium or-
dizers and conciliating with the
sheriff's statement that his men had not

violenced.

"However," the telegram added, "the turning point of events follow-

the rally demonstrated, there is
still great hostility to law enforce-

and practices in East Los Angeles.

CHARGE - Rosalio Munoz, Chicano Moratorium leader,
charged with "squad tactics in violence."

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