

Police Brass Backs Move To Mix All-White Beach

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TOP POLICE BACK BEACH 'WADE-IN'

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"The Negro does not want to take over Rainbow Beach. All he wants to do is feel free to peaceably visit any beach and that is his constitutional right."

With these words Deputy Superintendent of Police James B. Conlisk placed the 10,000-man Chicago Police department squarely in support of a month long effort to integrate the publicly-owned South Side beach.

"Ultimately, I think the Rainbow Beach demonstrations will have a good effect on the racial situation in Chicago," he told a news conference.

Rainbow Beach has been the scene of organized "wade-ins," countered by rock-throwing white mobs and intermittent acts of violence. Numerous persons — both Negroes and whites — have been arrested on a variety of charges.

Police were first criticized for failing to take positive steps to curb uprisings. Since that time, Police Superintendent O. W. Wilson issued a "get tough" order to his force and they have since carried it out to the letter.

Speaking in Wilson's absence, Conlisk said the police department is translating the Chicago government's determination to uphold the constitutional rights and privileges of all persons.

Asked about a deluge of letters inquiring why Negroes want to take over the last "all-white" beach, Conlisk stated:

"The Negro does not want to take over Rainbow Beach. All he wants to do is feel free to peaceably visit any beach and that is his constitutional right.

"Remember, this is not a police problem alone. It is a community problem where whites and Negroes alike must stand up and be counted."

"Counted for what?" a newsman asked.

"Peaceful and sensible integration," Conlisk replied.

Turning to an outbreak of racial disorder on the Westside, Conlisk said 49 policemen had been assigned to Harrison High school. It was in this area that a Negro youth was shot and killed while returning home from summer school classes.

Since that time, roving gangs of Negro teenagers have severely beaten several whites and police have reacted with scores of arrests.

Conlisk said the area is relatively quiet, though four teenagers were taken to Lawndale station Monday as a "precautionary measure."

"I feel confident we'll be able to handle any situation," Conlisk said.

He was apparently referring to a demand made on Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy by a Mississippi congressman that the federal government intervene in the disorders here to "protect the civil rights of white people."

The request has been promptly rejected by both official and unofficial sources here.