

State Troopers Sent Into City As Crime Rises

Some Civilians Assist Police - '65 Blackout Peaceful in Contrast

By LAWRENCE VAN GELDER

Within minutes after the power failed last night, police radios around the city began to crackle with reports of crime.

Amid shattering glass, wailing sirens and the metallic clang of trash cans used to demolish storekeeper's metal shutters, youthful looters and vandals, emboldened by darkness, focused their attention on shopping areas.

Governor Carey ordered the state police into the city to assist the local police.

At the same time, other people left their homes to help direct traffic in the suddenly darkened streets. Often armed with flashlights, they took up their impromptu stations at intersections and guided drivers and pedestrians.

Although reports of burglaries came from Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens, the downtown Brooklyn shopping area along Fulton Street seemed to be the scene of the most activity.

Police 'Doing Best They Can'

"They're crazy," said the owner of an ice cream store on Fulton Street, near Adams, as youths rushed by. "They're taking their shoes and breaking windows. They're animals. They should be put in jail — and throw the key away. The cops are doing the best they can. There are about 500 kids in the street."

In sharp contrast to the blackout of November 1965, which was remarkable for its lack of crime, the police last night were hard-pressed in some areas.

It was a struggle not without casualties. In Harlem, there were reports that bricks and bottles had been hurled as policemen tried to halt looting by hundreds of people.

In the 23d precinct, in Harlem, where the arrests stood at 14 just before midnight, at least three policemen were reported injured.

Usual routine ignored

So accelerated were the police efforts in Brooklyn that officers bringing prisoners into the central booking facility in the 84th precinct stationhouse, at 301 Gold Street, were not waiting to fill out the necessary papers. Instead, they were leaving the prisoners and returning to the business district.

At least four officers in Brooklyn were reported taken to hospitals with injuries from bricks and bottles.

At the corner of Bridge and Fulton Streets, huge shards of glass from the windows of Martin's department store glittered in the little light available, and mannequins hauled from windows lay in the street.

Fires, too, were widespread. Many of them were set in trash baskets, and it was

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not clear whether they resulted from lawlessness or an effort to provide light.

On Broadway around 96th Street, there were reports of looters breaking into supermarkets and small stores and business establishments.

The police in the Bronx said stores along Fordham Road had been the targets of looters there.

Other forays by looters were reported in the Highbridge, Morrisania and Tremont sections, but a police spokesman said the situation was under control.

Added to the turmoil in the streets was a disturbance in the Bronx House of Detention. The City Corrections Department called at 11 P.M. for emergency assistance from the police department. The police said that prison officials feared a possible breakout attempt at the institution in the South Bronx.

Meanwhile, in East Harlem, looting and violence appeared to be increasing. Stores along Third Avenue from 104th through 106th Streets were reported hard hit.

"Third Avenue is demolished," Joseph Rossi, a police officer, said after a patrol. "It's like a bomb hit it."

At 98th Street and Broadway, policemen with flailing nightsticks belabored innocent bystanders and would-be vandals alike as they mounted an attack on those who had been involved, or seemed to have been involved, in an effort to loot a small-appliance store. The store's shutters had been partly raised and would-be looters were beginning to make their way under it when the police arrived to stop them.

Farther uptown, not far from the Columbia University campus, the atmosphere of good will that was the initial reaction to the blackout dissipated within a couple of hours. The crowd thinned considerably, and roving bands of youths conveyed an air of menace.

At 112th Street and Broadway, the Tech Hi-Fi store became a target. An iron grating covering the double doors of the store was ripped away and a metal trash basket was used to smash in the doors.