

# Ramparts: Memo

Date:  
To:  
From: John Spitzer  
Subject: The demonstration in Oakland: 19, Oct. 1967

I was at the demonstration from 5 AM to 10:30, wandering around, helping build barricades, stopping traffic, picketing etc. I should say from the beginning that, at least up til 10:30 I was extremely pleased with the whole affair. Other things may happen this afternoon which I ~~wouldn't~~ have been so pleased about.

## BEGINNINGS

When the demonstrators met at 5 AM in Lafayette Park, the dominant mood was one of nervousness and apprehension. The crowd was not particularly large and it was composed almost exclusively of students and "hard core student organizer types". The instructions were given that: "This may be a rough demonstration. Anyone who is not willing ~~x~~ to be beaten by the police or be arrested whould leave and go to the 'peaceful domonstration' SDS is running at the draft board." Many of the people gathered in the park were wearing ~~xxxx~~ hard hats or crash helmets. Vaseline was passed out for people to put on their faces because it was claimed that it offered some protection against MACE. There was a great deal of confulsion among the people there. People did not really know what the tactics were going to be and did not know who the leaders were. By and large people's spirits were very low and people were very apprehensive about what was going to happen to them and about how the whole demonstration was going to turn out. People remembered Tuesday only too well. It was pretty clear to me that very few demonstrators were in a mood to start anything. The instructions given were: "The police will try to clear us out of the area around the induction center. When the police advance, retreat slowly and in order leaving plenty of room in the rear for the people in the front to move back. Then when the police stop, take up a new position in front of them." AS it turned out the leaders had a very accurate idea of what the police's ~~x~~ tactics were going to be, and these instructions really paid off.

## AT THE INDUCTION CENTER

The groups took their positions aroud the induction center at ~~about~~ a little before 6 o'clock. People were beginning to arrive in greater numbers. The monitors were trying to ~~a~~ keep evryone spread out and mobile. The police were based in a parking garage across the street from the induction center. When the demonstrators arrived the police moved out and cleared the intersection (Clay & 15th) in front of the center. The demonstrators were milling about and very, very nervous. At about 6:30 the police started to advance in ranks 3 deep to clear the streets around the center. (~~x~~ I'll draw a map of all this if anyone wants.) The de-