

# City of Detroit

## INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Marks

DATE August 25, 1966

FROM: Bush

SUBJECT: Investigation of alleged name calling by a police officer on Kercheval

## RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION:

It appears that there was name calling by police officers on two occasions during the course of the Kercheval disturbance:

1. An officer in a station wagon scout car facing east said, "Nigger, move on" on Thursday, August 11, between 8:15 and 8:30 p.m. at Kercheval and Parkview. This is attested to by Al Dunmore of the Michigan Chronicle.
2. An officer in a TMU car going west on Kercheval at about 10 p.m. on Friday, August 12, said something to a group in front of 9211 Kercheval that the several witnesses heard differently. Two witnesses claim that the officer said, "Nigger", two others said they thought it was "Nigger" but didn't hear it distinctly and couldn't swear to it. Another witness said he heard the officer say, "white power". The members of the "peace patrol" went out on the street at about 8:45 p.m. and returned at a little after 11 p.m., which would place the time of the incident at about 10 p.m.

## RECOMMENDATION:

Commissioner Girardin should be informed of the results of our investigation. I suspect that he will be able to pin-point the precise car involved in the Thursday night incident because it was the station wagon that moved seven youths off the corner of Kercheval and Parkview at about 8:15. He will be able to determine the guilty officer in Friday night's incident by determining which TMU cars were going west on Kercheval at about 10 p.m.

## WITNESSES INTERVIEWED:

1. On Friday, August 12, Al Harrison told Bush when he brought in Mr. Alston to the Fifth Precinct to make a complaint on another matter that police officers were calling people "nigger" on Kercheval. Bush was unable to get any details at that time. Mr. Alston said nothing about it.

2. In the meeting of the "peace patrol" on Friday, August 12, Jim Hanna reported that police officers shouted "nigger" to people standing in front of the ACME office. It was this report that John Milhone used in his Free Press story.

3. Jim Hanna told Bush that he did not hear it distinctly, although, the officer could have said "nigger". It happened about 10 p.m., and the officer was in the second or third car of a TMU squadron of six going west. He said that Congressman Diggs,