



Champaign patrolman Rick Rodgers watches for trouble during class break at Centennial High School (Photo by Steve Mann)

Centennial High quiet as police watch halls

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Centennial High School remained quiet at noon today following Wednesday's racial trouble which resulted in suspension of 39 black students.

No more suspensions have occurred and attendance today was reported at just a little below normal. Nine other students, including five whites, were suspended earlier in the week in connection with individual fights of a racial nature, or for being in the halls without authorization.

Three Champaign Police juvenile officers continued to patrol the halls today as well as two off-duty uniformed officers hired by the school district "to reinforce the atmosphere of authority," as Assistant Principal Al Davis put it.

Recommendations for expulsion of several students involved in the incident Wednesday were

being drawn up today by school officials. The 39 students suspended as a result of this incident will begin returning to school Monday on a staggered return plan to allow for parent-student conferences, Davis said.

Tensions rise

Davis said tensions have been building at the school since it opened this fall. In the last few weeks, troubles have accelerated into unprovoked student attacks on each other, mainly black girls fighting with white girls.

Wednesday morning Davis announced that hall passes would be curtailed and anyone in the hall without a pass would be suspended. Any further incidents would mean a recommendation for expulsion.

At least three whites and one black were suspended Wednesday morning for hall pass violations. Later in the morning a meeting of 20 black male students, a few teachers, one parent and an assistant principal was held.

Students complained of too strict rules and police in the school. The parent reportedly told the students it was their

fault the police and rules were needed and that when they controlled themselves the situation would improve.

About noon Wednesday in a hall near the cafeteria about 40 blacks assembled and a fracas began in which a female teacher and an assistant principal were struck and another assistant principal was knocked down and kicked. Criminal charges reportedly will be filed in connection with the kicking assault.

This group then moved to a second floor hall where two white girls allegedly were hit and shoved.

Schools quiet

There was no major trouble at any other schools, though a small "flurry" of pokings on the back and similar incidents was reported at Jefferson Junior High about 12:30 p.m. Thursday. Principal Pal Sparks said it resulted in about six students being sent home for a day or two.

Centennial Principal Richard Longenecker remained at school today though he had been home sick Tuesday and Wednesday

when the trouble occurred.

About 10 or 15 of the suspended students had tried to return to school Thursday morning but were sent home again on a bus. Other black students who felt "uneasy" were also allowed to go home, making a total of about 35. Of the 1,284 students at Centennial, 194 are black.

According to police juvenile division head Lt. Delmar "Dean" Dawkins, the students who returned Thursday said they had been called at home (which they were) Wednesday night to be notified of their suspension and thought it was a crank call from other students.

Both Dawkins and Sgt. James Voss have commented that if the school officials hadn't cracked down when they did (announcement Wednesday morning of hall violations ending in suspension) the school would have been out of control by next week.

Once the school is restored to order officials may try using black parent volunteers in classes and halls and "rap sessions" for those involved to talk out their problems.

Price kept Aim

N.Y. Times News Service and Associated Press
The President's Price Commission says frozen prices will be thawed just enough after Saturday to make up for new increases in business costs.

That is the core of a complex cluster of price guidelines announced Thursday and aimed at keeping the average of all post-freeze price increases down to 2.5 per cent or less.

Meanwhile, the Pay Board completed work Thursday night on regulations to implement pay policies after the freeze ends at 12:01 a.m. Sunday. The regulations, built around a general 5.5 per cent ceiling on pay increases, will be published in the Federal Register Saturday.

Basically, the Price Commission's guidelines forbid business and industry from increasing profit margins during Phase Two of the President's economic stabilization program. However the commission put a limit on the total amount of profit that may be accumulated during the controls program.

Prices may be raised at midnight Saturday to reflect increased costs, except for firms with sales of \$100 million or more. They must obtain advance approval.

The commission stated

Warmer

Partly cloudy tonight, low to 44. Partly sunny and warm Saturday, high 74 to 79.

Thursday's high 61, low mean 49; overnight low 4 a.m. temperature 42 with 69 percent humidity.

No precipitation. Monthly total .32 inches.

Degree days to date 425. Year 568.

Record high 73 in 1902. Record low 16 in 1913.

Sunset 4:40 p.m. Sunrise a.m.

ILLINOIS FORECAST

Tonight partly cloudy lows 35 to 46. Saturday cloudy north half, mostly south half and continued with highs 64 to 74 north and to 79 south.

Mariner 9's
trip to Mars

Nixon names Butz new