Police Ban March in Harlem Today; Sponsor's Defiant

Leftists Still Plan Protest on Department—Rights Chiefs to Discuss Riots

By R. W. Apple Jr.

Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy last night banned the Harlem protest that was con-
ducted for this afternoon by a militant left-wing organization. Mr. Murphy asserted in a statement that he was acting to "preserve and improve the uneasy peace which now pre-
exists." He amassed the sponsors of the march as "advocates of violence and disorder who pro-
claim that violence is the solution to the problems of their time."

William Epton, a spokesman for the Harlem Defense Coun-
cil, said last night that he would fight the ban, which, he said would begin as planned at 4:30 P.M. His group will defy the ban, Mr. Epton said, be-
cause it "is a violation of the Constitution to assemble and demonstrate peaceably."

Cancelling of the March

Early this morning 106 Negro leaders representing 65 organiza-
tions agreed to send Mayor Wagner a letter urging him to support the hearing that he requested Commissioner Murphy's order.

The police ban, however, that they intended to try to persuade Mr. Epton and Jesse Gray, the leader of the March and an organizer of the pro-
posed march, to call off the demonstration.

The Commissioner's right to prohibit the demonstration was upheld by Leo A. Larkin, the city's Corporation Counsel, last night. Mr. Larkin said that "where there is a clear and present danger to the peace and safety of the community, the authorities can take such action as may be necessary."

Mr. Murphy made his an-
nouncement as his men readied themselves to deal with possible violence. He put 7,000 men on duty with all 27,000 members of the force on orderly on the front lines. Last night, however, there were no unusual disorders anywhere in the city.

In another development the nation's principal civil rights leaders were asked to meet next week in an effort to keep the racial disorders in Harlem and Brooklyn from damaging the civil rights movement.

Roy Wilkins, executive secre-
tary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said last night in a telegram sent Wednesday to the heads of other major rights organizations:

"The promise of the Civil Rights Act of 1954 could well be diminished or nullified," he said, "and a decade of increasingly violent and futile disorder un-
seated if we do not act now with one, unified, and our hand coolly and intelligently."

Mr. Wilkins urged his col-
leagues to work out a common policy, "modifying any essential posi-
tion," that they did nothing to assist the campaign of Senator

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