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Processing Note

Transcript only of this conversation; there is no recording.

DATE: 10/21/67

TIME: 5:43 PM

CALLER: Robert McNamara

Pages of Transcript: 1 page

Barbara Cline
Archivist

Conversation with
Secretary Robert McNamara
10/21/67 5:43p

Not pertinent

12306

McN: Just wanted to tell you the present status. Really quiet until now. Very sizeable group just broke through one part of the line. Have troops inside building to protect doorways. Troops are under order not to load bayonets before engaging in any violence.

They are not well led. Not nearly as powerful as numbers would approach.

They are shoving and shouting. One or two girls got roughed up. Photographers weren't immediately in the area. They are now. Don't know if they got any of the roughing up pictures or not. No violence at the moment.

P: What will you ultimately do?

McN: I think we should just wait them out. Just calm waiting them out is best policy. It's gonna' get cold in the next couple of hours and a lot will be leaving.

P: Is it a pretty rough looking outfit? Are they college kids?

McN: Yes, sir, college kids. There's no cohesion. There are 3 bull horns ~~xxx~~ going at once. No plan. Not well led. Obviously some of them want to instigate violence. Go from one place to other. Some are running from here to other area where I can't see. Perhaps 10,000 here now. This is probably the maximum number. Were still coming across the bridge half an hour ago. Don't know what number is at Memorial (Bridge). Coming in contingents of couple of hundred. Quite clearly they have broken through the line and the hall area in front of my windows. I am on the Army side of building -- not in my own office. It has been bloodied. There have been 21 arrests, including Norman Mailer.

P: Any other notable persons?

McN: None that I know of.

P: O.K., thank you.

gt

SERVICE SET