

## **The 1968 Democratic Convention**

"Stop the war!" shouted the youths.

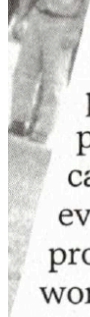
"Keep law and order!" Chicago mayor Richard J. Daley told the police.

It was August 1968. The Democratic party was meeting in Chicago to pick its candidate for president of the United States. A rumor spread that 100,000 antiwar demonstrators were planning to come to the city and disrupt the Democratic convention. Daley was determined to stop them.

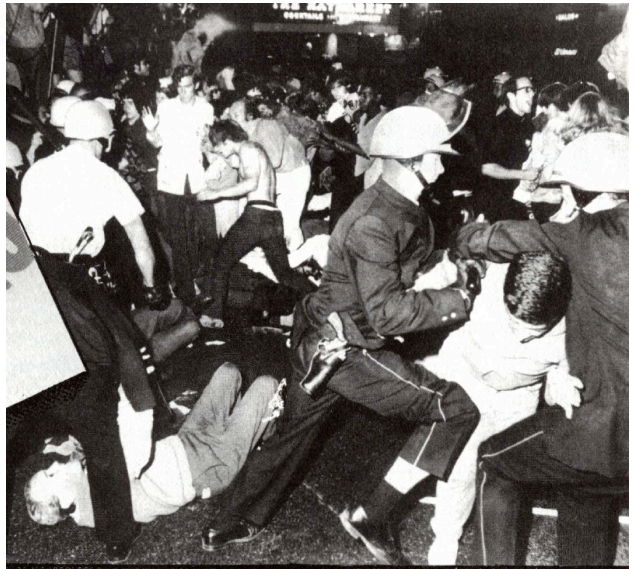
Daley turned Chicago into an armed camp. A barbed-wire fence went up around the convention hall. The police worked 12-hour shifts. The National Guard was called out. Even units of the U.S. Army stood ready to move in.

As it turned out, only about 10,000 protesters showed up. Daley refused to give them permission to march or to hold rallies. He also ordered an 11 o'clock curfew in Lincoln Park, where many protesters were camping out.

The result was four nights of riots. Protesters who really did want trouble called the police "pigs" and threw stones and bottles at them. The police, in turn, used clubs and tear gas



against all the protesters, even peaceful ones. Hundreds of people were injured. Six hundred protesters were arrested. And TV cameras recorded the riots for everyone to witness. Angry protesters chanted, "The whole world's watching; the whole world's watching." Many Americans were shocked and sickened by the violence in the streets.





Charles Bonney/LIFE



Charles Phillips/LIFE

"I won't move," said this girl on Michigan Avenue. "You'll have to hit me to make me." In Lincoln Park (bottom), police charge antiwar demonstrators.

<http://img.timeinc.net/Life/conventions/gallery/D.6.bc.jpg>



[http://www.downtownexpress.com/de\\_77/chicago.gif](http://www.downtownexpress.com/de_77/chicago.gif)

Chicago,  
August  
1968



Police barricades kept protesters away from the convention hall.

<http://www.chicagohs.org/history/politics/1968.html>