

May 23, 1974

10 More Arrested At Rockville School

By Martha M. Hamilton
Washington Post Staff Writer

Police arrested 10 more students at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville yesterday and charged them with disorderly conduct in an altercation that developed out of a student protest over police presence at the troubled school.

Police were on hand as a result of a racial incident Friday in which another 10 students were charged with disorderly conduct when they refused to obey police orders to leave the school grounds. Police had been called to head off a threatened fight between black and white students.

By 2:30 p.m. yesterday, tensions appeared to have eased and more than a dozen uniformed police officers who had been on the school grounds all day withdrew.

The charges against the students arrested yesterday included trespassing, resisting arrest, assault on a police officer, inciting a riot, interfering with a police officer and carrying a concealed weapon, which police described as an 18-inch dog chain with a sharpened hook on one end.

The students were released in the custody of their parents.

The arrests grew out of a demonstration in the school building against the presence of the police yesterday morning, according to school administration spokesman Ken Muin. After students refused to return to classes, they were asked to leave the building. They then gathered in a vacant lot across from the school.

A Police spokesman said the arrests apparently followed taunts to the police.

Later in the day an interracial group of students met with school principal Dr. Thomas Warren to discuss ways of easing tension and demonstrate that there was no need for the police. A proposal for each class to meet to thrash out problems grew out of that meeting.

"We have to show the police and the administration that we're all together people," student Robin White told the junior class, which assembled in the bleachers around the foot-

See SCHOOL, B2, Col. 7

10 More Rockville Students Arrested

SCHOOL, From B1

ball field for the first class meeting.

The meeting, which ranged from inspirational calls to reach out and relate to other people, to charges that black boys grab white girls, ended with Police Capt. Gabe LaMastra promising to withdraw the uniformed police, "if you kids can get it together and

run the school with the administration."

The students sat in clearly segregated groups for most of the assembly, with about 20 of the school's approximately 100 black students clustered at the top of the bleachers. Near the end of the assembly after a student, Roland Gant, questioned the seating patterns, a number of black and white students exchanged places.