Police Club Leftists After Wallace Rally

By a Washington Post Staff Writer

CLEVELAND, Oct. 5—Police clubbed, pushed and dispersed hundreds of leftist demonstrators today in a frenzied melee outside an auditorium where third-party presidential candidate George C. Wallace had just finished speaking.

Several persons, including women, were beaten to the ground. On man fell with a head wound gushing blood. At least a dozen Negroes and long-haired white youths were arrested.

The violence erupted while the chanting demonstrators were waiting for Wallace to leave Cleveland Public Auditorium by a side door. About 100 policemen were crowded around the entrance.

A youthful Negro sat on the hood of a car parked at the door. Officers asked him to get off. He refused. A man in civilian clothes suddenly dragged him off, and in an instant later, on no apparent orders the police charged into the demonstrators, their clubs swinging.

They forced many against the wall of the auditorium building, striking them repeatedly. Screams filled the air. Some of the demonstrators tried to flee. Others fought back. Several shoes were thrown.

In about a half hour police cleared the streets, and Wallace departed for Montgomery, Ala.

Cleveland police inspector Harry Antel, in charge of the officers assigned to the Wallace rally, said he did not know who, if anyone, gave the orders for the police charge.

Earlier inside the auditorium, the former Alabama Governor spoke to about 3000 persons, making his familiar call for law and order, local control or schools and a speedy end to the Vietnam war.

Speaker Heckled

He was heckled continually by the five or six hundred protesters until they filed out near the end of his address to gather at the side door.

Twice tear gas was detonated in the auditorium lobby, filling the air with a thin, throat scratching vapor. Police said they did not know the source of the gas.

Wallace aides who call themselves “ushers” stood at the doors leading to the main floor of the auditorium, barring persons who appeared to be anti-Wallace. The protesters sat in the balcony.

Ends Rough Week

The Cleveland rally concluded a week of campaigning for Wallace throughout the industrial Midwest and North. He spoke at rallies earlier today in Jersey City and Newark. Several fist fights occurred at the end of the Newark rally. About 3000 persons heard him speak in Jersey City and 5000 in Newark.

Wallace described his week of campaigning as “a great success.” He will fly to Washington Sunday for an appearance Monday before the National Press Club.

Wallace told newsmen that his vice presidential running mate, retired Air Force Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, would probably begin his own tour schedule in the coming week. LeMay has accompanied Wallace at all the rallies since his candidacy was announced in Pittsburgh last Wednesday. LeMay has spoken little or not at all at the rallies.