

EMERGENCY QUARTERS

If it ever becomes necessary, emergency squads can be fed and can even sleep at the command post. This would prevent a repetition of the situation on April 5, when police, many of whom already had worked two shifts, went off duty at 5 a.m. and headed home. All had to be called back to duty at 2 p.m. as disorders spread. Police planners say that if the men could be kept at one place, they could return to duty faster.

This is only one of many lessons police learned from dealing with the riots and their aftermath.

Principal stress is being placed on licking the twin problems of processing persons accused of looting and other suspects at the scene of the trouble and transporting them to cellblocks and court.

PATROLS BEEFED UP

Meanwhile, over the last three weeks, the District government has been beefing up the number of police on patrol in the city in response to pressure from fearful citizens.

The latest step, over the weekend, came in response to demands from bus drivers after one was slain early Friday during a night of seven bus holdups.

This buildup, involving the shifting of 200 traffic and desk men to street duty and increased authorization of overtime pay means "one-third of the total police manpower is working a six-day week," according to Mayor Walter E. Washington.

In response to the criticism that the police were "soft" on rioters and under orders to let them alone, officials explained:

"You can't arrest more than you can process and transport."

RECORDING AN ARREST

Here are the new measures being taken to cope with that dilemma:

Each policeman will be given field arrest sheets in quadruplicate. When he makes an arrest, he can do all his paperwork at the scene—swiftly writing out who the suspect is and what prompted his arrest.

The courts have agreed to accept what he writes as an "information" and he can stay on the scene to make more arrests.

The policeman keeps one copy of the arrest sheet, sends the second to court, uses the third to accompany any seized evidence and sends a copy to his precinct.

The four-part "instant" record is aimed at meeting some of the criticisms voiced by Ronald Goldfarb, a Washington attorney and former Justice Department prosecutor who was commissioned by a foundation to study "The Administration of Justice in Washington During The Disorder of April, 1968."

Goldfarb found that the mountain of paperwork needed to process defendants during the riot caused the biggest tieup, that some prisoners became "lost or unnecessarily detained" for days and that police were kept from their principal duties by having to sign their name 27 times while processing a single arrest.

WILL PHOTOGRAPH SUSPECT

Another new step being taken by police is in answer to another of Goldfarb's criticisms—the often faulty identification of prisoners. Goldfarb recommended photographing prisoners as soon as possible. Police are going to make that "soonest."

Transport drivers who go to the scene of a riot to pick up prisoners will carry Polaroid cameras. As the policeman brings his prisoner to the car, the driver will snap a picture of the policeman with his prisoner. The picture will go to court with the prisoner and the policeman's signed information.

Hauling the prisoners away to courts and stationhouses was another major problem last month.

In the future, police won't have to rely solely on "black marias" and similar prisoner vans. When necessary, they will be able to carry prisoners in regular scout cars now being ordered equipped with a plexiglass and wire-screened security area behind the front seat.

All the driver will have to do is take off the back door handles, and handcuff his prisoners. The prisoners will be as securely sealed in as they were in regular police vans.