

Angry Blacks Blast Massell

By ALEX COFFIN and TERRY ADAMSON

Summerhill residents said Mayor Sam Massell gave them "a beautiful snow job" during a Tuesday afternoon meeting at City Hall in which the mayor sought to soothe tempers in the Atlanta slum.

Massell, carefully responding to grievances raised by a number of Summerhill residents and other black leaders at the City Hall session, said:

1. Top priority in his 1971 budget would be to give police more pay.

2. He approved of the concept of a Summerhill police precinct, which eventually will be set up in a multi-purpose Model Cities building and he indicated that it might be set up at an interim site before then.

3. The aldermanic Planning

and Development Committee has been asked to review all programs of existing agencies, such as Model Cities and Economic Oportunity Atlanta, to see why some are "on dead center," or ineffective.

Massell declined to meet with the young persons of Summerhill within the slum area as residents repeatedly requested during the afternoon City Hall session. But Ald. Cecil Turner, P & D committee chairman, said he

See SUMMERHILL, Page 16-A

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Staff Photo—Gus Hayes

L-R: Mrs. Mattie Ansley, Jesse Hill, Mayor Masell at Meeting

Summerhill

From Page 1

would convene a meeting of his committee in Summerhill at the earliest possible time Wednesday.

Turner was setting up the Wednesday meeting through Mrs. Mattie Ansley, a well-voiced but outspoken resident of Summerhill, who was a leader at the afternoon session.

Late Tuesday night, Mrs. Ansley, referring to Wednesday's meeting, said, "We'd better produce or else step back and get out of the way."

State Rep. John Hood called Masell's answers "a beautiful snow job" and "a slap directly in the face." Mrs. Ansley was in tears as she told other Summerhill residents of Masell's refusal to meet in the Summerhill community, south of Atlanta Stadium.

Summerhill, the site of major civil disturbances in September, 1966, has been continually tense since the Aug. 4 police shooting of 15-year-old Andre Moore.

Confusion as to who would actually be meeting with the mayor surrounded the beginning of the Tuesday afternoon meeting, set up by businessman Jesse Hill for Mrs. Ansley and others.

Although about 30 black residents and a dozen or so city officials, including three police superintendents, were on hand, one participant echoed the expressed feeling of many of the blacks present: "The problem is that the folks who are really involved in this aren't here. They're still sitting down there (in Summerhill). This ain't doing any good."

Vice Mayor Maynard Jackson was in the mayor's foyer with the others at the scheduled time of the meeting, but was left outside the mayor's inner office while preliminary meetings between Hill, Mrs. Ansley and the Mayor were held to decide "who was meeting." Jackson left before the open meeting.

Asked about Jackson's omission from the inner meeting, Masell replied that the meeting was Mrs. Ansley's and she could invite whomever she pleased. Masell told the group at the beginning of the open session that he had invited a number of his staff to attend. He did not mention Jackson.

"SHOW HIS FACE"

Masell had made a 30 to 40 minute automobile tour of Summerhill Tuesday morning, but Mrs. Ansley responded that he should have gotten out to walk "and show his face."

Masell said he noticed few physical improvements since the 1966 Summerhill riot and that "it is apparent that there are frictions and irritations that need attention."

"Sure, things are tense down there. If you don't believe it,

look at the broken glass," Mrs. Ansley said. Windows in a liquor store that had been firebombed early Monday morning, were broken out Monday night.

Mrs. Ansley complained that the people of Summerhill shouldn't have to come to City Hall and that Masell ought to go to the area. "Open up your heart and hold a meeting," she pleaded.

Dashiki-clad Alvin Price of the Cornerstone Program said that the residents are "tired of meetings and no action from the people in a position to give action." He accused the police of "mis-handling." Summerhill young people and called Supt. Oscar Jordan, who was sitting nearby, "arrogant" in his dealings with Summerhill residents.

RACIAL DISPUTE

Another black woman told the mayor that the residents got no police service unless a white and black are involved in a dispute.

Deacon Lewis Peters and Rep. Hood called for a police precinct station and Peters added, "I'm not a person who believes in burning up . . . but the young people are saying that 'the time is up' and the older people say 'it is coming'."

Mrs. Ansley said the city has double-crossed the residents in not pulling out all white policemen, which she said was promised by Ald. Q. V. Williamson, chairman of the ad hoc Police Committee, at a Summerhill meeting immediately after young Moore was slain.

In a speech as he wandered around the committee room, the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. also noted the absence of the youthful, militant elements of the Summerhill community and said, "You've got to find Big John and get him in this meeting . . . because he can go back and talk to the people you can't talk to."

DYNAMITE

While the audience called, "Right on Daddy King," King said the city "is playing with dynamite," but he cautioned the black residents. "While the blacks are known as the most patient people around, we need a little more patience and not tear things up."

Another black echoed that the city has "a tiger by the tail with a firecracker in his mouth and the whole thing's going to blow before this is over."

The mayor, who listened to the complaints for more than an hour, occasionally lightly rapped a gavel for order and made a five-minute reply before returning to his office.

Police Chief Herbert Jenkins, whom the mayor said was out of town, requested that the three police superintendents attend the meeting in his absence. The superintendents met briefly in Masell's office with the mayor after the open meeting.

PRIORITIES

In another development, Masell was criticized Tuesday night for "his order of priorities" in dealing with the Summerhill crisis by Economic Opportunity Atlanta Executive Director Bill Allison.

Allison, who attended the afternoon sessions at City Hall said he "was glad the mayor had a chance to hear the grievances of the residents," but added that he thought it "poor judgment on the mayor's part to label as the highest priority an increase in police salaries."

Allison, who said it "is an indictment of all of us that the Moore youth had to be on the streets at 12 midnight," said the real question the residents raised — "a genuine concern for all the other Andre Moore in Summerhill" — was not really addressed by the mayor.

3 ARRESTED

Three persons were arrested Tuesday inside one of the Summerhill stores damaged by fire bombings early Monday.

Detective D. C. Powell said officers J. Pitts and J. L. Pophar discovered the three inside the building.

Powell said two, Raymond Fletcher Wilson, 18, of a Walde Street address, and Wilma Jones, 21, of Primrose Street were jailed on burglary charges.

The third, 18 years of age, was turned over to juvenile authorities on burglary charges, Powell said.

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report
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still lowest in "tar"
of all filter kings
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