

IS 9/20/8

Jordan Says Role Was Peacemaker

Samuel R. Jordan testified Thursday afternoon in court he had found a bottle, which he recognized as a Molotov cocktail, on Howard Avenue and was on his way to dispose of it in a sewer when he was apprehended by city police at 3 a.m. May 10.

Jordan, of Washington, D.C., took the stand shortly before 4 p.m. in his defense against charges of possession of bombs or explosives, carrying a concealed deadly weapon, and violation of the Uniform Firearms Act.

TOLD OF TROUBLE

He said he had been called to the southeast area of the city by a phone call at 2:15 a.m. telling him of some trouble there.

Jordan, described by an earlier defense witness as a person who had played a leading part in discouraging 400 young people from wrecking the center of the city the night after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, gave these events leading up to his arrest:

"About 2:15 a.m. I received a phone call from a friend of

mine — Robert Rivers — the call was a message telling me there had been some trouble in the southeast area of the city . . . I should come quickly and since he didn't know what it was, he said be careful and take precautions . . . I got dressed and walked down to the community and looked around to see what signs there were . . . I heard there had been gunshots and rifle shots earlier in the evening . . . I didn't see anybody right away I recognized, or any trouble.

"I was beginning to leave the community when I saw several figures at the intersection of Rockland and Howard Avenue from my position on S. Duke Street. They were moving east on Howard Avenue. . . a few minutes later I heard several shots coming

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