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WTO Media Summary
(Media reports, unconfirmed by City)
Wednesday morning, November 30, 1999
8:15 Report

KIRO TV: KIRO reports that protesters from the Direct Action Network left Denny Park and violated the no-protest zone. KIRO claims arrests have been made. Also says number of demonstrators much fewer than yesterday. Unconfirmed. According to KIRO News, the National Guard is grouping in Kent to enter Seattle. According to KIRO, because of a suspicious package, Metro reports that the downtown bus tunnel is closed. According to KIRO, police vow to arrest all protesters violating the non-protest zone. According to KIRO, there are far fewer protesters, approximately 100 near Lenora and Westlake. Police are making arrests outside the no-protest zone. According to KIRO, the No Protest Zone is Expanded to Lenora, Seneca, 4th Avenue, and Boren. According to KIRO, SPD is arresting protesters near Lenora and Westlake

NW Cable News: NW Cable News is reporting police are facing off with protesters at 7th & Denny--non-confrontational. Unconfirmed. NW Cable news reporting on police "declaring the area around the Convention Center a 'safe zone'." NW Cable news also reporting arrests at 8th & Lenora.

KING TV: According to KING 5, SPD is arresting protesters near Denny Park. KING TV reports from 8th & Lenora that arrests have been made; police confiscating belongings. Demonstrators chanting "the whole world is watching." Unconfirmed.

KOMO-TV: KOMO reports protesters are gathering--not promising to obey non-protest order in downtown core. Say "they will do whatever it takes", "ready to face tear gas or whatever." Unconfirmed. KOMO also reports arrests. Says bus tunnel was closed because of a suspicious package, was cleared and is now reopened

More from the PI:

Going to business district? Take bus

Taxi drivers didn't show up for work. The mayor declared a curfew. Metro stopped downtown bus service. They closed Sixth Avenue, then Fifth Avenue, and later, Fourth Avenue.

Transit:

- Metro's decision inconvenienced thousands of riders on more than 100 routes. Buses continued to run in the downtown transit tunnel, but the Westlake and University stations were closed.
- Last night, the transit agency was running shuttle buses on First and Second avenues to get people out.
- Metro has canceled downtown bus service until after 7:30 this morning. Buses should then resume their normal schedule.

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- Despite the unpredictability of this week's protests, the city is still urging those coming downtown to take the bus.

Traffic:

- Demonstrators effectively closed the northbound Interstate 5 on-ramp by 9:04 a.m.
- Earlier, the I-5 exit ramp to Seneca Street was closed.
- Yet, downtown traffic west of Fourth Avenue and south of University Street flowed freely as many opted to stay home for a second day.
- Yesterday, freeway traffic remained lighter than normal, said state Department of Transportation spokeswoman Melanie Moores.
- Because of the demonstrations during the morning and noon hour, the department delayed reversing its I-5 express lanes until 1 p.m.

Taxi Strike

- A planned strike yesterday by taxi drivers had some impact, although it was difficult to determine how many drivers did not go to work.

Seattle Times**Guard posted in shaken city**

- Officers from Seattle, King County and the State Patrol and private security guards hired by downtown retailers patrolled the streets and around the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, where most of the WTO meetings were scheduled today.
- Many of the estimated 30,000 protesters vowed to return today for more of the same. A number of rallies, including a protest from the United Steelworkers union, are planned.
- As darkness fell yesterday, police drove protesters out of downtown and into Capitol Hill. Riot-clad police followed protesters up the hill and clashed with them late into the night along East Pine Street and Broadway, where bonfires were lit and fireworks were thrown at advancing officers.
- By midnight, officers boarded a bus and left the area. The protesters left shortly after.
- Police arrested 60 protesters yesterday, city officials said. Seventeen people were injured.
- An estimated 20,000 union members rallied at Memorial Stadium in the morning before marching en masse to downtown.
- The marchers converged with other protest rallies that began at the Pike Place Market, University of Washington and Seattle Central Community College.
- At 5 p.m. yesterday, without warning, the police made their move to begin clearing downtown.
- Block by block, police fired canisters of gas into the crowds with a terrifying boom. Then they shot rubber bullets into the backs of protesters even as they ran away.
- Police advanced in a line, clubs raised. They were backed up by a tank-like armored vehicle.
- As downtown began emptying out, several hundred protesters were forced up Pine Street toward Capitol Hill. Enraged that police had gone past the downtown curfew area, they shouted, "Off our hill."

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