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Five die

DANBURY, Conn. (AP) — A fire that killed five and injured 66 today at the medium security federal prison here was apparently set after a disturbance among inmates, authorities said.

Danbury Police Sgt. Robert Lovell said evidence of the fire's being set was found in an investigation by the fire department and prison officials. He refused to elaborate.

Lovell said police and prison guards had responded to a disturbance about 11 p.m. yesterday in the cellblock housing 80 inmates where the fire started. An inmate was hospitalized with a head injury suffered in the incident.

Hospital authorities said the dead were presumed to be inmates, because of the clothing they were wearing. One guard was injured and one fireman was treated for injuries.

A volunteer fireman said more would have been injured or killed if prisoners had not helped others to escape the flames.

State Police guarded the area around the Federal Correction Institution and Danbury Hospital where the injured were treated. Officials said inmates were loose in the prison yard.

The fire, which started at 2:50 a.m.,

three-story cell compound, which housed 750 prisoners.

Arriving firefighters found the building ready in flames.

Inmates led the building, said a volunteer fireman.

"If it hadn't



One of the

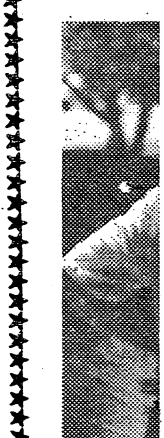
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Nine persons were arrested in raids aimed at drug-related activities. The raids were coordinated by the Justice Department.

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—Evening News Photo by Peter Rosenkrans

Before arrest

James E. McDonough Jr., 27, also known as Dhirstadyumna Swami Maharaja, dances before followers in a noontime gathering yesterday that led to the arrest of 16 members of the Hare Krishna sect.

16 charged in noontime chant

Hare Krishnas arrested

By SANDRA DeVIRGILIO
Staff Writer

Sixteen members of the Hare Krishna sect are awaiting hearings on charges of disorderly conduct stemming from a noontime "chanting party" on downtown streets yesterday.

The men were arrested in Riverfront Park after following a route from the Capitol down Third

St. to Market, and down Market to Front.

A spokesman said they plan to plead innocent to charges at a hearing to be scheduled before District Justice Joseph Pinamonti.

Arrested, according to police, were Eugene P. Bilyk, 27; Ronald E. Boutelle, 31; James B. Burgert Jr., 26; Michael J. Buck, 25; Guy A. Dunham, 21; Warren C. Havens, 20; Michael D. Koman, 28; James E.

McDonough Jr., 27; Dean E. Michalovits, 27; Thomas W. Morrison, 23; Timothy S. Murphy, 20; Vincent R. Ross, 20; Stephen A. Ross, 21; John E. Sayers, 27; Paul S. Sullivan, 21, and Michael T. Whelan, 29.

The "chanting party" included singing and dancing as participants walked through lunchtime crowds. Chanting — repeating the names of deities — is part of the stated practice of Krishna followers.

Devotees of the Krishna movement — followers insist it is not a religion but "knowledge" — said they plan to hold weekly "chanting parties" in the downtown area to "try to awaken everyone who's illudioned."

Yesterday's arrests did not change their intent, they said.

"We would be glad to warn them (police) in the future if they think they have to make some special arrangement" when the group chants in the downtown area, a spokesman said.

According to accounts of the arrest by the Krishna group, they were approached and questioned by police during their march to the Riverfront, but were not warned that they might be arrested.

The said they planned to turn down Second St. en route to the river, but police told them, "We're ready for you to come this way" — down Market to Front.

Neutron bomb already fired

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI) — The controversial neutron bomb has already been exploded under the Nevada desert, according to sources close to the U.S. nuclear weapons testing program.

At least one neutron bomb has been detonated at the Nevada Test Site 70 miles north of Las Vegas, the sources confirmed late yesterday.

"The neutron bomb has been tested at the Nevada Test site, and probably within the past year," one expert familiar with the program said.

He declined to say whether there had been more than one test,

or how long testing of the bomb has been under way.

A Pentagon spokesman had no immediate comment on the report.

The White House said yesterday that President Carter plans to decide in mid-August whether to go ahead with production of the radiation warhead, center of a dispute in Congress.

A dozen or more nuclear warheads a year are exploded at the test site, and the explosions have become almost routine in the lightly populated desert area, where residents feel nuclear shock waves ripple

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CRIME RATE DROPS 9%

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's crime rate dropped 9 per

cent for murder and 4 per cent

for motor vehicle theft.

The statistics showed an overall