I crossed the river near the bridge and attempted to talk to some of the troopers. Now, I do not know if they were ordered not to talk to the press, or if they regarded anyone not within the establishment as an enemy, but most of the troopers and guardsmen refused to talk to either press or demonstrators. One trooper answered by saying “Look! You don’t give us information, we don’t talk to you. So why don’t you hit the road?” Some were understanding and willing to talk. One Maine trooper said, “I can’t blame them, I have mixed feelings too. But this is private property.” All the troopers and guardsmen were dressed for a riot. Each trooper carried mace, a billy club, gas mask, a loaded gun, and a riot helmet. The guardsmen wore riot helmets and carried three-foot-long clubs. Many of the police were not identifying marks, such as badges or name tags. This was standard operating procedure, explained New Hampshire Attorney-General Rath, to eliminate all hand-holds such as, for example, police wore no identifying marks, foot-long clubs. Many of the police were dressed for a riot. Each trooper carried mace, a billy club, gas mask, a loaded gun, and a riot helmet. The guardsmen wore riot helmets and carried three-foot-long clubs. Many of the police were not identifying marks, such as badges or name tags. This was standard operating procedure, explained New Hampshire Attorney-General Rath, to eliminate all hand-holds such as badges or name tags. This was standard operating procedure, explained New Hampshire Attorney-General Rath, to eliminate all hand-holds such as badges or name tags.

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Not once did I see a non-combatant physically threaten a trooper, nor did I hear an injury to a trooper except for one who slipped and cut his hand. One dozen demonstrators were taken to the hospital with concussions, stomach and groin injuries, and one cracked vertebra, according to a CDAS press release. I guess my curiosity is satisfied.