

# A Frustrated and Angrier Mood

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WASHINGTON, May 9 — This was protest in search of a method by a crowd that knew what it wanted but not how to get it.

It was a leisurely loll on the grassy Ellipse around the White House. It was a splashy swim in the Reflecting Pool. It was a sharing of the water in canteens in the humid heat, a radiant exposure of chests and midriffs to the sun. And yet it was also sullen and angry and "That can we really do?"

"What makes this demonstration different from the November one?" asked Mrs. Missy Conrad of New York. "The weather," she answered. "It's almost like going to a party. In November, though, it was different. 'Peace now' chanting. You were happy. This is scarier. People are more angry. You feel these young people should be going to the beach on a day like this. It's scary."

"Spread the strike," shouted a distant speaker.

### Spock Eyes Next Step

"We have not come with the false hope that this Administration will end the war," shouted another. "Shut down offices, shut down factories, shut down! Until we end the war."

People came because they said they felt compelled to come to protest policy, to mourn the dead, to stand to-

gether against the Government. But once here, they did not sing or rail or march very much. They talked about feeling useless and ignored.

"We're not here just to demonstrate," said Dr. Benjamin Spock, the pediatrician and war protester. "We're here to plan where we go from here."

"Stop the war machine," cried the loudspeaker.

"I wonder whether this is really France," asked a blond girl in a Michigan sweatshirt of her beau lying prone against her thigh. "Do you really think the union workers are going to strike because we ask them?"

"In November, people were sad," said Jim Demeules, a Columbia University law student. "Now they're angry. In November we were demonstrating our opposition. The people down here today are not here to show their opposition but to stop the war. Won't take no for an answer."

"The big difference between now and last November—we went back to our schools. This time, people aren't going to go back in their routines."

"This is not a picnic on a lawn," said David Dellinger, the experienced organizer of protest and confrontation. "No more fun and games. We are here to be energized, to build up a head of steam, to get a focus."

The rhetoric was all against violence, more passionately

so than any from the capital's authorities or President Nixon himself. In the crowd, they saw no use in violence. On the platform, they saw it as an affront to the "ordinary citizens" across the land whose support was now wanted for economic boycott and sanction and disruption of life.

"This is a beginning, not a safety valve," said Mr. Dellinger, disputing President Nixon's contention that demonstrations like today's, if welcomed and assisted instead of feared and resisted, would prevent both revolt and repression in the land.

And the gentle crowd listened, applauded, passed up some money for the Panthers and the G. I. resisters and covered its heads against the hot sun and watched with envy as hundreds dunked themselves in the Reflecting Pool and the Boy Scout fountain.

"Spread the strike," Ron Young pleaded, from the rostrum.

And then the announcer offered tips on heat exhaustion, finding lost children, training sessions for strike tactics and emergency psychiatric help, at 15th and E Streets.

Arthur Spenser, a dispenser of souvenirs at demonstrations here when he isn't driving his cab, thought it was a very poor rally in business terms.

"People are wearing the same old buttons," he said.