

Post 2/23/71

Two From Congress Testify Against Mayday Arrests

Two members of Congress testified in Superior Court yesterday that Mayday anti-war demonstrators were peacefully assembled on the U.S. Capitol steps when police arrested them for no apparent reason.

Both representatives Bella S. Abzug (D-N.Y.) and Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) testified at the trial of eight demonstrators that the crowd was being addressed by themselves and other congressmen May 5 as the arrests occurred.

The demonstrators were charged with illegal entry and

disorderly parading. The trials of more than 800 others arrested at the same time have been postponed pending the outcome of this case.

Rep. Dellums testified that he had been "roughed up" by a policeman after he asked him to give the "legal basis of these arrests."

According to the congressman, the policeman "thoroughly and totally ignored me," saying, "I don't give a f. who you are."

Dellums charged that the same policeman whom he

identified as metropolitan police Capt. A. W. Ferguson also "pushed me down two of three stairs" when the congressman told the policeman to "take your hands off" one of Dellums' staff members. The assistant, Michael Duberstein, had joined the congressman in asking the reason for the arrests.

Dellums, who is black, said he had reported the incident to a police community relations officer, not because he wanted to see Ferguson fired, but to make the point: "Don't treat me like a nigger, treat me the same way you treat any other congressman."