

The show... by night... Campaign... Mass... Americans... in the main...

# Victory Advocates Hold 'Free Theater'

11/15/69

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Protest was in the air yesterday and the "Americans for Peace Not Surrender" had no difficulty attracting a lively lunchtime crowd to Farragut Square for a display of "free theater."

The theater turned out to be two brief pantomime skits mocking the efforts of the peace movement and depicting the North Vietnamese—"Ho, Hanoi!"—in the role of peace riders.

Although the crowd of several hundred onlookers was peppered with young people in Washington for Saturday's march, the "free theater" reception was decidedly proper.

Young antiwar demonstrators stood in relative silence as the men in dark suits with American flags in their lapels applauded the performance. Only once was a placard held aloft depicting that "Ho, Hanoi!" is anti-Christian.

But once the skits had retreated from the scene, a debate broke out in small clusters as focused youths listened to what some of their elders had to say.

"When you get right down to the nitty gritty," a man in a trench coat said to a young woman with a peace button on her lapel in the crowd, "you find that the President is doing us better than we think."

"The reason the silent majority hasn't spoken out is that they need more shaking and gear," he said. "What Senator Tower said the other day, they are for busy working."

The antiwar people did not shrink from the challenge. "I think you're all wrong," a youth with a button that said "Out Now" offered, "the people in this country have had enough."

"You people" another young man said "are always coming to about the Communist's just don't understand how things have changed. You won't learn" an elder replied.

The arguments were spirited yet polite. No one's mind seemed to be changed, but a youth walking away was heard to say, "at least I had a chance to tell those counter-revolutionaries what happened."

"Americans for Peace Not Surrender," the sponsors of yesterday's rally, have said they will seek to join Saturday's mass antiwar march although they are not in agreement with most of its aims.

As a yesterday, Mr. Butler, spokesman for the group said he had received no response to his request to participate in the march. Sponsors Butler said his supporters are impatient of "U.S. officials' heavy-handedness" in handling the Vietnam situation.

"I don't see how we can do anything more," he said. "The only thing we can do is to keep the pressure on the government."

He said the group was in a meeting with the antiwar group last night.

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