

Protesters Orderly, Court Told

By Marlene Bradley
Special to the Washington Post
New York, May 5 (AP)—Rep. Charles E. Rangel (D-N.Y.) testified yesterday that Capitol Police Chief James Powell told him the Mayday antiwar demonstrators at the Capitol represented "one of the most orderly crowds that he had ever seen."

Rangel's testimony given in the Superior Court trial of eight of the more than 800 arrested demonstrators, contradicted that of Powell, the government's chief witness, who testified last week that the crowd was arrested after it "worked itself up to a near-frenzied state." The main issue at the trial is the amount of noise made by the crowd.

The demonstrators were charged with unlawful entry and disorderly parading on the Capitol steps after trials of the antiwar demonstrators have been postponed pending the outcome of this case.

Rangel testified he "volunteered" to go to the Superior Court on the night of May 5 to protest the arrests. He said Powell made it in the presence of Rep. William Dellums (D-Calif.) and Bill Abruzzo (D-N.Y.) who accompanied Rangel to the court.

The three members of Congress asked Powell to repeat the remark that night to an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, but "a tall gentleman wearing a suit" stepped up and prevented the chief from doing so, Rangel testified. He said he could not identify the man but "it was apparent he was part of law enforcement."

Rangel conceded on cross-examination that he had not attempted to

contact Powell. He said he had been under the "ignorant opinion" that all the charges had been dropped.

Outside the courtroom, Rangel said he did not think Powell was present to make the arrests but had been "ordered" to do so, but said he did not know who directed the arrests.

The congressman also testified that Powell made no mention of noise when the arrests occurred. He said the chief told him the demonstrators were arrested because they

didn't move when he gave orders for them to move.

Rangel said the demonstrators were listening peacefully to speeches by himself and other members of Congress and could not hear Powell's orders.

The congressman referred to Powell's comment on the "order" of the crowd when unexpectedly recalled the remark after mentioning the remark to Philip J. Hirschman, a defense attorney, in a hallway following his initial testimony.