

Mobilization Leaders Blast Justice Probe

By Paul Valentine
Washington Post Staff Writer

Leaders of last weekend's antiwar demonstrations here yesterday denied Justice Department suggestions that any of them may have triggered violence and bitterly denounced the decision to investigate them.

"We deny that we have disturbed the peace," said Stewart Meacham, white-haired Quaker pacifist and a cochairman of the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. "We declare that we have disturbed the war. "We declare that we have conspired to do violence," he said. "We declare that we have conspired—literally breathed together—to engage in peaceful protest against U.S. aggression in Vietnam."

Mobilization march permit negotiator Ron Young said Nixon administration war strategists "should be convicted and jailed, not for revenge but for moral rehabilitation."

The Mobilization statements came at a special press conference called in reaction to claims by Deputy Attorney General Richard J. Kleindienst Tuesday that Mobilization leaders knew violent elements were coming to Washington last weekend, did little to stop them and are being investigated for violations of the new federal antiriot act.

The measure, part of the 1968 Civil Rights Act, makes it a felony to cross state lines with intent to incite or participate in a riot.

Crossing Lines

"Somebody should investigate Kleindienst and (Attorney General John N. Mitchell because they crossed state lines from Arizona and New

York to foment violence," said Mobilization attorney Phillip J. Hirschkop. "Their attitude was abominable." Arizona and New York are Kleindienst and Mitchell's home states, respectively.

Hirschkop, who as Mobilization attorney had worked closely with government officials in arranging permits for the 40-hour "March Against Death" from Arlington Cemetery to the Capitol and also the mass march Saturday up Pennsylvania Avenue, appeared particularly bitter.

He blamed much of the limited violence Friday night and Saturday by militant groups on what he said was the Justice Department's lack of cooperation and its slowness in granting march permits.

Riot Denied

Even so, Hirschkop said, the violence that did occur could not be defined as a riot. Militants among 2,000 to 3,000 demonstrators Friday night

clashed with police in an attempted march on the South Vietnamese Embassy. On Saturday, many of the same militants among some 10,000 demonstrators smashed windows at the Justice Department. Neither action was officially sponsored by Mobilization.

Windows in at least 76 downtown buildings were broken in the incidents. Police used tear gas to stop the action. About 90 persons were arrested, most for disorderly conduct.

Mobilization leaders have

claimed they went to extra lengths to prevent violence, negotiating with violence-prone groups and furnishing more than 2,500 marshals for crowd control at the planned marches.

Hirschkop said Kleindienst and other officials were fully aware of these efforts.

He said Kleindienst was an "absolute liar" when he told newsmen Tuesday that Mobilization negotiators had refused to modify their demand that marchers be allowed to walk around the White House until last Tuesday, four days before the mass march up Pennsylvania.

Alternates Suggested

He said alternate routes, including one avoiding the White House, had been suggested the preceding week. Mobilization spokesmen had publicly announced such alternate routes the preceding Wednesday to newsmen.

Kleindienst had ruled out a march around the White House because of security risks, he said. Government and Mobilization leaders finally agreed to a march line that went up Pennsylvania Avenue as far as 15th Street, just southeast of the White House, then turned south to the Washington Monument grounds.

Kleindienst has maintained that Justice Department intelligence reports indicated that ultra-militant groups intended to use the massive demonstrations as a springboard to violence.

He acknowledged that "98.63 per cent" of the estimated 250,000 demonstrators Saturday were peaceful and that others initiated violence only at non-Mobilization rallies centering on the Justice Department and the South Vietnamese Embassy.

Meacham contended that the police estimate of 250,000 for the mass march was conservative and that a more realistic figure would be 500,000.

"It was a community for a day . . ." he said. "I wonder where you could find a community of a half-million where so few people were arrested."

City Drops Charges Against Newsmen

By William N. Curry
Washington Post Staff Writer

The corporation counsel's office yesterday dropped disorderly conduct charges against two newspapermen arrested during last week's anti-war demonstrations.

The arrest of one of the reporters, David K. Shipler of The New York Times, led to an article in Monday's editions of the Times in which Shipler said cellblock police held protesters for nine hours in cells containing puddles of water while dry cells stood empty.

Metropolitan police inspector Karol Kratochvil, who is in charge of the cellblock, said a prisoner flushed a stopped-up commode until it flooded. He acknowledged that some suspects got wet as a result.

As for the long delay in releasing those who posted collateral, Kratochvil said there was a shortage of manpower. He noted that the cellblock was used for arrested demonstrators and the usual Saturday night arrests.

"We just didn't have enough manpower to give each person individual attention," he said.

Robert H. Campbell, the chief assistant corporation counsel at the Court of General Sessions said yesterday, "I don't feel we could make a case of disorderly conduct against (Shipler). There were no overt acts of violence."

Shipler, 28, said yesterday he was taking notes at 12th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. about 6 p.m. Saturday when he was arrested by Officer W. C. Battle.

Shipler said there might have been people on the corner near him but that he was not mingling with the protesters.

Campbell also said there was no case against Phil Finch, 21, a Washington Daily News sports reporter arrested

Friday night, also by Officer Battle, during troubles at Dupont Circle.

In an article Saturday, Finch wrote that he was looking for a friend and was not on assignment when he was caught up in confusion and tear gas, and was arrested. He forfeited \$10 collateral that night.

David Stolberg, managing editor of the News, accompanied Finch to a hearing with Campbell yesterday. Stolberg

said he had a "paternalistic" interest in Finch.

"I did not want him to have a record," Stolberg said. "He should have told them he was a reporter sooner. He didn't . . . until he was asked to his occupation" at the precinct.

During the three days of antiwar demonstrations last week, which brought some 250,000 people to the District, 87 persons were charged with disorderly conduct. Campbell said yesterday he has also

dropped charges against a third person, a young demonstrator from Portland, Ore., who was arrested with Shipler by Officer Battle.

Communist Sancepar

Reuters

DJAKARTA, Nov. 19—
Indonesian customs officers arrested several men during the seizure of hundreds of Chinese-made saunas marked with the Chinese flag, it was reported.