

Nixon and Protest in Peking

Examiner News Services

Someone leaned hard on protesters attempting to vent their dissatisfaction with President Nixon when he visited Peking, Ill., June 15. *

The protesters themselves suspect the Secret Service.

"It wasn't us," said a Secret Service spokesman.

Similar pleas of innocence came from the county sheriff and the police chief in Peking, where Nixon stopped for a ceremony honoring the late Sen. Everett Dirksen.

A spokesman for the Indochina Peace Campaign said in Chicago that Secret Service men confiscated anti-war signs and tore up banners.

The spokesman, Steve Packard, said the Secret Service men "swept through the crowd along the motorcade route twice before the President's car and the press passed."

He said signs and banners held by anti-war activists were confiscated.

Nathan Gardels, another leader in the anti-war group, said Secret Service men took a sign he held bearing a picture of a B52 bomber with the caption "Angel of Death."

Activists Claim Secret Service Pulled Down Unflattering Signs

"Later, as we were unfurling a 4-by-12-foot banner that said 'Stop the Bombing,' I felt a jolt from behind, heard my wife scream, and saw a Secret Service man start running with the banner," said Gardels.

Hollis Summers III, 27, a graduate student and English teacher at the University of Illinois at Urbana, said the man he saw tearing down the banner not only had "earplugs" that are seen attached to security agents' vest-pocket radio communications, and not only had the orange lapel-style emblem with a prominent "S" (for "security" or "staff," he later learned), but was spotted later "close to the President's car."

"He was gesturing and waving his arms in a purposeful manner," seeming to give directions, Summer said. Because he appeared to be part of the president's official security entourage, Summers believed the man was a secret service agent.

Summers, of Athens, Ohio, said that as the man ran aft-

er pulling down the anti-war banner, he knocked an elderly woman to the ground.

Summers said he asked state police captain Ralph E. Henson three times to get the name of the man but was ignored — and threatened with arrest the third time when "I put my hand lightly" on Henson's arm to get the trooper's attention.

Henson recalled the incident and said he did not get a good look at the emblem the man was wearing, however, he said he is "positive" the man was not a Secret Service man or law enforcement officer "of any type."

He did not pursue him, or attempt to identify him, Henson explained, "because at that time I had my hands full with the woman . . . who was shaken up, pale, and took a real good lick" when she was knocked over.

Henson said he had seen

several persons wearing orange colored, nickel-sized disks with an "E" on them (for "enforcement") but that the only "S" emblem he was introduced to were "presidential things" with red, or white, or blue circles around them.

The White House does issue nickel-sized pins to its personnel, described as "between bronze and gold" in color, which have either red, blue or green borders, and a U.S. flag in the center.

Despite the credential with the "S" on it being issued by the secret service to VIPs the agency disclaims any responsibility for what may take place afterward by the wearer.

Michael Robinson, Associated Press reporter covering the President's arrival in Peking, said Secret Service men and Peking police forcibly removed Richard Grawey, 25, a Peoria law student, from the crowd. Grawey had held an "Impeach Nixon" sign near the speaker's platform.

* SEE SACR ARTICLE
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