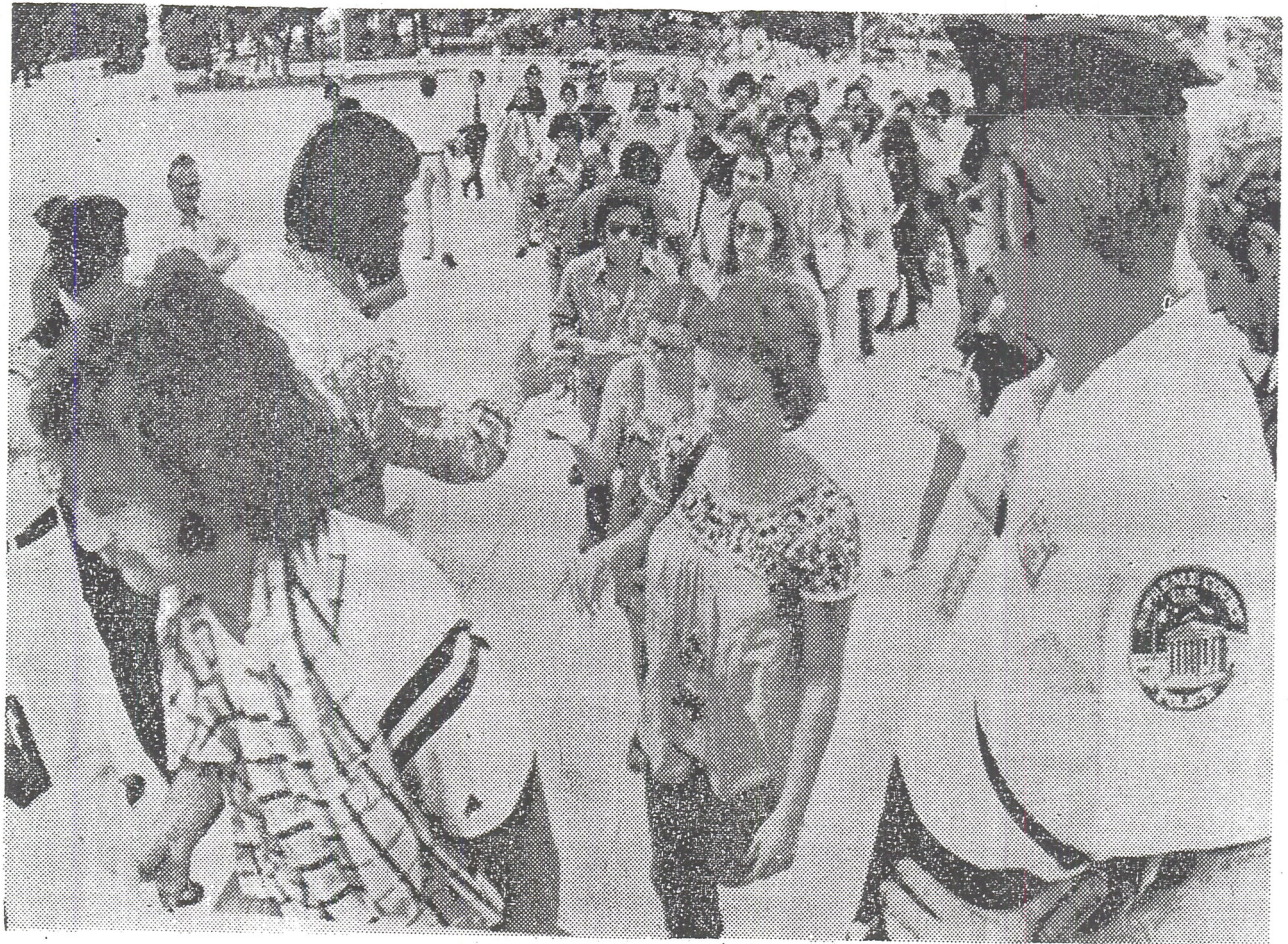


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Associated Press

Spectators filing into the Supreme Court building yesterday in Washington to listen to the Watergate arguments

A Few Boos and 'Let's Go, Leon' in the Patient Crowd

By ANTHONY RIPLEY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 8—

There is a feeling of order and dignity in the marble halls of the United States Supreme Court building, and it seemed to spill over today onto the marble plaza outside where the crowd waited.

About 200 people had been there through the night to win a seat in the courtroom at today's historic debate—the courtroom climax, it seemed, of the two-year-old Watergate affair.

It was a well-organized crowd and ranged from college students to the wife of an Oklahoma Representative. They issued their own tickets, made arrangements with the police to have the tickets honored, held roll-calls during the night and stood respectfully in lines without ropes or squads of police officers.

By 9:30 A.M., when the first black limousines began to arrive with lawyers and some members of Congress, the crowd had grown to 400.

There was applause, mixed with a few boos, when President Nixon's lawyer, James D. St. Clair, arrived. He walked up the marble steps to the Parthenon-like Court building with his wife and two associates. Stopping to sign an autograph, he was caught up by a crowd of reporters and spectators that seemed to melt away as the Watergate special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, arrived.

The applause and cheers this time were long and loud. "Save the Constitution," someone shouted, and there were a few other cries: "Let's go, Leon" and "Go get 'em."

Mr. Jaworski's family was with him and he went inside without stopping for autographs.

'Dynamite Job'

And that was about as unseemly as the proceedings ever became until the main participants left the building more than three hours later and one partisan yelled, "Dynamite job, Lee-onnn."

There are 423 seats in the courtroom, and the plan for

today's session had been to provide 120 for the general public. This was later increased to 136, generating shouts of joy. These were on a first-come, first-served basis.

Twenty-seven seats were set aside for five-minute glimpses of the Court by anyone else in the lines.

The rest of the seats went to lawyers, members of Congress and newsmen.

An Early Arrival

So it was important to get there early and Elena Sassower of New Rochelle, N.Y., an 18-year-old Congressional intern, took up the vigil at 9:30 A.M. Saturday.

By last night, the crowd had grown to more than 100 and was kept by the police in a small park across from the Court building.

Olivia Jones, the wife of Representative James R. Jones, Democrat of Oklahoma, arrived at the Supreme Court building at 8:30 last night and was eventually a cheering No. 135 in the line.

She waited all night without sleep.

She said that there had been a Harvard law professor in the line and that he could not understand why in something as important as this other professors were not waiting all night, too.

When the crowd began to grow in the small park, the members quickly organized a list of names and issued tickets, handwritten and countersigned by three other members of the line, to prevent crashers.

Vigil After Midnight

At one minute after midnight, the police allowed them to take up their vigil at the marble steps.

And when the sun rose and began to pour down on them, they patiently took out their books and newspapers and waited their turn to watch a bit of history unfold in the lawyers' arguments before the Court.

It was hard to find a single word of regret among them.

"I really enjoyed it," Miss Sassower said simply of her two-day wait.