

Civic Center

5000 Hear Calls For 'Peace Now'

By John Burks

President Nixon's inauguration inspired more San Franciscans to protest than either the peace that didn't happen in October or the overwhelming Christmas week bombing of Hanoi.

In yesterday's march and rally sponsored by the National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC) and the Peoples Coalition for Peace & Justice, some 5000 anti-war protesters wound up at Civic Center Plaza.

An all-star lineup of speakers — Willie Brown, Bobby Seale, David Harris, Country Joe MacDonald, Stephanie Coontz, Cecil Williams and others — strove to convey the message that:

"Mr. Nixon is a very tricky man. He'll try anything to thwart the wishes of the American people. But we can't let him do that. We've got to continue to let him know that the American people want out of Vietnam now."

The Message

Those words were Assemblyman Willie Brown's. His audience let out a whoop and waved their hundreds of "Out Now" signs.

Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby Seale, a candidate for mayor of Oakland, stressed the need for those who oppose the war to keep speaking out.

"It won't be a question of four more years of Nixon," said Seale. "He's gonna have to deal with four more years of US!"

The Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church maintained that the Nixon Administration has consistently acted out a policy of deception concerning the war.

"We've got to let the government know that we are not going to be deceived until America pulls all the way out of Vietnam," Williams said.

Security Force

Stephanie Coontz, national coordinator of NPAC, said the President is acting against the wishes of the American people by prolonging the war. And for this reason:

"Richard Nixon has no more right to call himself the people's representative than pollution has to call itself weather."

Later, Ms. Coontz added: "The anti-war movement has done more for America than the last four Presidents combined . . . Our biggest mistake is that we left the streets for even a minute."

Burly, hard-hatted mem-

bers of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union drill team provided a security force around the speakers truck.

ILWU Local 6 president Curtis McLain suggested that a national work stoppage would bring the Vietnam hostilities to a speedy end. He got one of the day's biggest hands by repeating rather an old line:

"We in the United States must stop playing world cop."

Feinstein in March

Among the marchers from Embarcadero Plaza to Civic Center (though she did not address them) was Supervisor Dianne Feinstein, along with her family and other families under the Families for Peace banner.

She brought her father along, too. "It's his first peace march," Mrs. Feinstein said proudly.

The Feinsteins marched to send a message to the President.

"Many of us took Mr. Nixon at his word in October," said the supervisor, "when he told us peace was at hand. We want to let him know we wish it had been.

"This war had dragged on for 10 years now and I think it's time for all American people to let the President know that the time to end it is right now, before his second administration gets any older."

About 1500 demonstrators rallied on the steps of the State Capitol in Sacramento, where pro-Nixon anti-protesters showed up with signs reading "Commies Go Home" and "Peace With Honor."

S.F. Rally Asks Nixon End War

About 2500 persons turned out for a rally in Mission Dolores Park yesterday demanding that the Nixon administration sign the Vietnamese peace agreement. Organizations oriented to Asian concerns were heavily represented among the speakers.

Jan Austin of the Asia Information Group said, "Even if many of us got involved with Vietnam thinking it would be a one shot deal, we have to realize now, on the day that Nixon is being inaugurated, that this is not adequate. Fighting imperialism is a lifelong fight."

Philippine Vietnam

John Silva of Kalayaan, a Filipino organization, said that the Philippine Islands could become another Vietnam. He said the action of President Ferdinand Marcos in putting the country under martial law is "a sign of imperialism's growing weakness."

An Nguyen Huu of the Union of Vietnamese in the United States said that the Nixon administration should be forced to sign the October peace agreement and he declared that the Vietnamese people should be left alone to work out "a government of conciliation and national unity."

Leftist Banners

The rally was sprinkled with the banners of largely leftist organizations, but some individuals carried their own home made signs. One declared "One hour's jet fuel — 4½ months worth of food." The war protestors began their rally at Garfield Square and marched through the Mission district to Dolores Park.

Daniel Ellsberg, the former Rand Corp. researcher who is a defendant in the "Pentagon Papers" case, was to have been a speaker at the rally, but he sent a telegram.