

WXPst JUL 14 1973

4 Arrested In Pray-In at White House

By Marjorie Hyer

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The arrest yesterday of four young women who staged a prayer protest at the White House marked the beginning of the second week—and what protesters say will be another month—of such demonstrations, against continued bombing in Cambodia.

Like the 18 others before them, the four arrested yesterday are part of the Catholic peace movement.

In the daily incidents, the protesters, by twos or fours, have emerged from the stream of tourists that pours through the mansion daily and have knelt in prayer, announcing their intentions to remain for a 24-hour vigil. All have been arrested and removed from the scene within minutes.

The Rev. Edward J. Guinan, who was arrested at the White House on Thursday, said the objective of the continuing protest is to provide "very strong pressure" to hold to the congressionally mandated Aug. 15 cut off date for an end to the bombing.

"I think some trial balloons have been sent up to see if that date can be extended," he said, and predicted that there would be increased pressure on the government to hold the Aug. 15 date.

Father Guinan asserted that "there has not been any one individual or group that has taken the responsibility for organizing this." He acknowledged, however, that the Community for Creative Nonviolence, a local unofficial Catholic group in which he is active, "is playing a primary kind of role."

Nine of the protesters thus far have been from the 33-member community, which also operates a hospitality house and Zacchaeus Kitchen, a feeding station for indigents.

Father Guinan said that about half of those who have demonstrated are from out of town, mainly from Baltimore and Harrisburg, Pa.

Those arrested yesterday morning and charged with unlawful entry were Jean Gregory, 24; Kathleen Thorsby, 24; Rachelle Linner, 23; and Ginny Ives, 26. They were later released on personal recognizance.

In the current pray-ins there has been no duplication of the protest last April in which two members of the community broke from a tourist line to pour blood on White House walls.