

F. B. I. Said To Thwart Bus Hirings

By PAUL MONTGOMERY

Local organizers for this weekend's peace demonstrations in Washington complained yesterday that Federal Bureau of Investigation pressure on bus operators had led to cancellation of some chartered vehicles.

The Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee, which is arranging for the bulk of transportation here, said last night that its bus situation was "in a crisis." A spokesman said cancellations were "pouring in" from companies, amounting to about 100 of the 400 vehicles scheduled.

The executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, Aryeh Neier, held a news conference yesterday afternoon to denounce what he called "illegal F.B.I. activity in New York in obtaining information on persons chartering buses to go to Washington Saturday to participate in the Moratorium."

Tells of a Visit

Mr. Neier said he had one documented case in which F.B.I. agents visited a large bus charter agency here yesterday morning and demanded that two senior executives of the company let them see and copy records of bus charters for Washington. Mr. Neier said he could not reveal the name of the company because its officials had not yet decided what action to take next.

To ld of the charge last night, an F.B.I. spokesman said, "No comment." Asked if this was a denial of the allegation, he said, "No."

Several charter executives denied that they had been ap-

proached by Federal agents. Stanley Fisher, president of the Allied Bus Company, 1560 Broadway, which is doing much of the charter arranging, said the charge was "an absolute distortion and lie."

'Drivers Not For It'

Louis Coppo of the Walters Transit Corp., 32-03 Vernon Boulevard, Long Island City, which is chartering 20 buses to Washington, said there was no Government pressure. However, he added, "the drivers are not for it, let me put it that way."

He said it was "quite possible" that some would call in sick today or Saturday.

"I'm keeping my fingers crossed," he said.

Several transportation sources said the principal problems in arranging charter buses was reluctance by drivers, either because of opposition to the movement to end the Vietnam war or because of unwillingness to work overtime. There was also some apparent fear of violence along the route. Buses have been stoned in past peace marches.

"I cannot under the contract or under company rules compel the drivers to work on their day off," said Wilbert Thorn, regional charter manager of Inter-City Transportation Company. He was having difficulty providing the 100 buses requested for Saturday by charter agents.

Asked if he thought driver disapproval of the antiwar movement might enter into their reluctance to take demonstrators to Washington, he said, "I would assume that that is the case."

The traditional reservoir of charter buses are the large companies, including Inter-City, that bring commuters from New Jersey. Most of the buses are idle on weekends, but drivers have to be found for them.