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Neil Salonen, president of the National Prayer and Fast Committee, and his wife on the steps of the Capitol yesterday as they began their demonstration.

## Nixon Backers Begin Fast and Prayer Vigil at Capitol

WASHINGTON, July 22 (AP)—About 350 supporters of President Nixon gathered on the steps of the Capitol today to begin what they said would be a 72-hour fast and prayer session.

Standing beneath American flags and signs saying "God Bless President Nixon," the crowd heard speeches decrying the impeachment proceedings against Mr. Nixon as no solution to the "Watergate morality."

"We should take note that both Hitler and Lenin took power on the heels of lead-

ers made impotent by constraints upon their office and lack of cohesive support," said Neil Salonen, president of the National Prayer and Fast Committee.

The organization, which claims a nationwide membership of about 25,000, was founded in January by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, head of the Unification Church of America. Mr. Moon, a Korean, sponsored several weeks of pro-Nixon activities in the capital earlier in the year.

Mr. Salonen said that some of those at the Capitol had

come to Washington for a week of rallies and anti-impeachment efforts by the Citizens Committee for Fairness to the President.

Rabbi Baruch M. Korff, chairman of the citizens committee, briefly addressed the Capitol rally, saying the group was emulating the "founding fathers who, 198 years ago, declared a day of prayer, a day of fasting."

"Now that we are undergoing a crisis of the gravest dimensions, it is incumbent upon us to seek spiritual divine guidance," he said.