

Protesters' Permit Delay Laid to Dean

By Paul Valentine

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Government negotiators, led by former White House counsel John W. Dean III, delayed issuance of permits for the massive "New Mobe" antiwar demonstration here on Nov. 15, 1969, crippling protest efforts to draw large crowds, attorney Philip Hirschkop charged in federal court yesterday.

Hirschkop, chief lawyer and negotiator for many protest groups in the past 10 years, testified that Dean, then an associate deputy attorney general in the Justice Department, went "duck hunting" for two days during crucial talks in preparation for the 1969 rally at the Washington Monument grounds.

Testifying in a U.S. District Court test case in which the American Civil Liberties Union contends that the government administers its permit procedures unfairly against anti-establishment political demonstrations, Hirschkop said Dean and other officials often delayed and evaded in negotiations.

It was only two days before the Nov. 15, 1969 mass rally, for example, that Dean "told me at a bar near his swim club in the Watergate (apartment complex) that we

could have Pennsylvania Avenue" as a march route for the protesters going to the Washington Monument, Hirschkop said.

As a result of his late concession, Hirschkop said, arrangements for transportation, housing, legal aid and other logistics were complicated for the rally, sponsored by the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam.

Crowds estimated by police at 150,000 to 200,000 attended the rally.

Police estimated the crowd at 250,000.

Hirschkop's testimony came in the eighth day of the court test before Judge George L. Hart Jr.

The ACLU contends that the National Park Service, Justice Department and other government agencies are guilty of a widespread pattern of "maladministration" of permit regulations for protest groups and use various techniques of evasion and delay to minimize political dissent.

Park service witnesses testified earlier that every effort is made to accommodate the large flow of demonstration applications in the city.