

PRESSMEN DELAY EDITION OF TIMES

~~MAY 31 1972~~
Protest an Ad Demanding
Impeachment of Nixon

JUN 1 1972

Pressmen at The New York Times delayed the start of the first-edition press run of yesterday's issue for nearly 15 minutes to protest the contents of a paid advertisement seeking the impeachment of President Nixon.

The two-page advertisement of the National Committee for Impeachment sought support for a campaign to impeach Mr. Nixon for allegedly violating the Constitution and ignoring bipartisan legislation by continuing the war in Vietnam and by increasing air operations there.

Initially, officials of The Times said, the pressmen said they would not operate the presses unless the advertisement was removed. The Times management refused to do this.

The pressmen then asked that a statement of their viewpoint

be printed with the advertisement, but production officials again refused, saying that it was a matter for the news department to look into.

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, the publisher of The Times, said in a statement yesterday that it was "inconceivable" that The Times would yield to economic pressure from its pressmen for elimination of the advertisement with which they disagreed.

Richard Siemers, chairman of the New York Printing Pressmen's Union No. 2 at The Times, said the pressmen felt the advertisement was "traitorous" and "detrimental to the boys in Vietnam and prisoners

of war." He issued the following statement for the pressmen:

"We the members of the New York Times press room want it known that we do not agree with the action or intent of the paid advertisement on pages 22 and 23 of the Wednesday issue, dated May 31, 1972, and are working under protest in printing it."

Mr. Sulzberger said in his statement that "fortunately" the pressmen allowed themselves to be persuaded to permit work to go forward before any real damage was done and that the advertisement ran as scheduled. He continued:

"In the service of freedom of expression our columns must

remain open to a wide variety of views, with many of which obviously both we and others will disagree.

"The work stoppage, which involved the use of economic force in an effort to censor the contents of the newspaper, was a challenge to the concept of freedom of expression on which a free press is founded. It would have been inconceivable for this newspaper to have yielded to such pressure.

"We doubt that those involved had fully thought out the implications of their action. The gravity of the situation will be explained to them, and we trust that there will not be any repetition of the incident."