

# Units Rally In Capital

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WASHINGTON — (AP) — Thousands of Vietnam war protesters spurned President Nixon's Inaugural Day declaration yesterday that the war is ending and vowed to continue demonstrating until a peace agreement is actually signed.

There were minor clashes between the police and small groups of demonstrators and Nixon's limousine was the target of badly aimed fruit as it led the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, but for the most part the counter-inaugural was conducted peacefully.

The largest demonstration, sponsored by a coalition of anti-war groups and 30 members of Congress, drew a crowd estimated by police at 45,000 to the Washington Monument grounds, where a round of speakers expressed disbelief in the

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said the turnout at the Washington Monument was 100,000.

Following the route made familiar by years of war protests, the throng marched from the Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument, led by dozens of black-robed figures, some made up with war wounds.

When youths pulled down the American flags at the base of the monument and put them back upside down in the signal of distress, police moved in and removed all the flags. They also quickly hauled down Viet Cong flags that were displayed.

## Sen. Hart There

A chill wind thinned out the crowd at the edges as the rally progressed; a number of warming fires were started, using the wood from crowd-control snow fences for fuel.

Most speakers urged peace activists to keep up pressure until an agreement is signed, and warned of more demonstrations if the war is not over by spring.

Sen. Philip Hart (D-Mich.) said he hoped this would be the last anti-Vietnam war rally. "And when the cease-fire comes," he said, "I hope you will direct your efforts to ending violence in America."

A smaller march sponsored by Vietnam Veterans Against the War led to a symbolic peace treaty signing nearby, and still a third group took part in a Youth International Party demonstration in front of Union Station a few blocks from the Capitol.

The Yippies, burlesquing the official parade of floats down Pennsylvania Avenue, pushed a small float shaped like a rat and bearing a sign, "Rats for Nixon."

## Nixon Jeered

Along the official parade route, a small band of youth-

were no reports of violence during the time the President was at the Capitol. Several demonstrators were reported arrested near the Capitol shortly afterward, however.

At the main demonstration, Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.), one of 30 Congress members who co-sponsored the event along with peace activist groups, called the ceremony at the Capitol "a charade" mocking the Constitution.

"The Constitution says it is Congress, not the President, that has the power to make war," she said. "The Constitution says we have three equal branches of government, with checks and balances, not an autocracy."

## Veterans' March

The veterans' march drew an estimated 2300 demonstrators who walked from the main gate of Arlington National Cemetery about a mile-and-a-half to the Washington Monument grounds. Marching in orderly ranks, they carried anti-war signs and occasionally chanted "Nixon, you liar, sign the cease-fire."

The crowd at Union Station was estimated at 1500. One of several youths who spoke over a public address system mounted on a truck said, "Four years ago we called Richard Nixon a pig. Now we want to apologize to the pigs of the world. He is a rat."

The Yippies' rat was taken into custody by police when the youths tried to push it closer to the Capitol. It was briefly liberated by the Yippies when the police truck hauling it away became stalled in traffic, but another foray by police succeeded and the rat was trucked away.

Other anti-war demonstrations were held during the inauguration in cities outside of Washington.

About 2500 persons marched in Chicago to the Civic Center Plaza chanting anti-war slogans.

## Other Rallies

The Hawaii Anti-War Coalition held an inauguration eve rally at the state capitol in Honolulu Friday night. About 200 persons paraded around the rotunda, protesting "Hawaii's complicity in the war" and urging the legislature to pass an anti-war resolution.

About 100 protesters, led by a dozen marchers in black robes with death masks painted on their faces, walked to the capitol in Montgomery, Ala., and laid a wreath on a state war memorial.

There were rallies in Danbury, Newtown, Ridgefield, Bridgeport, Westport and Weston, Conn.

A crowd of about 300 participated in a "peace ceremony" at the Statehouse in Topeka, Kan.