

Mothers Protest Nixon Aid Cuts

By Harry Jupiter

More than 1500 women, many holding small children by the hand, rallied in the Civic Center yesterday, then marched around the regional office of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in an angry protest against President Nixon's plans to cut funds for day care centers for children.

A succession of speakers pledged support to the women's battle for retention of state and federal aid to the centers.

Many of the orators were Democrats, who took the opportunity to toss in blasts at President Nixon.

MARKS

But State Senator Milton Marks, a San Francisco Republican, spoke, too, and he said:

"I'm for economy, but I think economy in this field is totally ridiculous."

Marks pointed out that there is more at stake than the day care centers. He said other forms of social services, such as aid to retarded children and other handicapped, also appear endangered.

Democratic Assemblyman Willie Brown limited his remarks to an introduction of Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti, who declared:

"Here in California, we need day care facilities for 645,000 youngsters. Today we only service 45,000 children, and Mr. Nixon wants to take away 30,000 of those. He's taking \$41 million away from this state.

"The budget of California will not be passed," Moretti pledged, "until Ronald Reagan puts \$41 million back in for day care centers. Before we rebuild North Vietnam, let's build America."

Other speakers included Mayor Joseph L. Alioto, Congressman Phillip Burton, Supervisor Quentin Kopp, and the Rev. Cecil Williams.

Outside the HEW building at 50 Fulton street, where the line of demonstrators and their children stretched all around the block, a HEW spokesman said the demon-

strators were premature.

"These regulations do not have an effective date as yet, they are merely proposed regulations," said Charles Hall, associate regional commissioner for community services of HEW.

DAUGHTERS

Rita Austin, 23, of Los Gatos, was there with her two small daughters. She is an electronics assembler at International Video Corp. in Sunnyvale, and earns \$2.85 an hour.

"I am divorced and I am the supporter of my children," Mrs. Austin said. "It now costs me 36 cents an hour for 9½ hours a day to keep my children in the Campbell Day Care Center. That comes to between \$60 and \$70 a month.

"If the assistance to day care centers is stopped, or regulations are changed, making me ineligible, it would cost me 75 cents an hour for the children, plus a dollar a day for their meals.

"Just the cost of the food alone would put me on welfare. I'm paying \$150 a month for an apartment, and it's a lousy apartment. We want to work, but we won't be able to. The cost of living goes up so fast a person can't afford it."

Government Is Shrinking

Washington

The Census Bureau reports that the number of governmental units in the U.S. is on the decline, despite the common complaint that government is getting bigger and bigger.

Units of government, which include everything from the federal bureaucracy to the local school district, dropped by 3031 in the last five years to 78,268, bureau officials said Thursday. The report said the biggest factor in the decline was the trend toward consolidating smaller school districts into larger units.

United Press



Children helped carry the signs at yesterday's Civic Center rally.