

Students Tidy Up Image To Lobby in Washington

By MARJORIE HUNTER

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WASHINGTON, May 7—Describing himself as “Mr. Nixon’s bum,” Merrick Thomas of Haverford College sat in a Congressional hearing room today and pondered aloud: “How can we keep the pressure on the President to end this war without demonstrating, without being obnoxious?”

Mr. Thomas, class of '71, was not alone in asking that kind of question as he and students from universities and colleges all over the nation descended on Congress to protest America’s involvement in Cambodia.

In big auditoriums and small meeting rooms, in the Capitol itself and the Congressional buildings that surround it, the students spent hours questioning members of Congress and cheering loudly every criticism of President Nixon and Vice President Agnew.

“We want action,” Mr. Thomas said. “That’s why I got up at 5 o’clock this morning. That’s why I’m wearing a tie. That’s why I cut my hair.”

Dawn had not yet broken when about 650 students, teachers and employes sleepily boarded buses on the Haverford campus, just outside Philadelphia, for the 130-mile trip to Washington.

With them was their president, Dr. John R. Coleman, staunchly denying that his students and the coeds with them from Bryn Mawr were “bums,” as President Nixon had described some college agitators last week.

“There are concerned students, trying to be heard,” Dr. Coleman said.

Many of the youths, like Mr. Thomas, had cut their hair, shaved their beards and donned coats and ties to improve their image. Nearly 1,500 students crowded into a Senate auditorium built to seat about 700 to cheer a parade of Senatorial “doves.”

Accusing President Nixon of “turning the Vice President

loose on the country,” Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota, received a standing ovation when he cried: “Do not be deterred by either Al Capp or Spiro Agnew or even Richard Nixon.”

There were cheers, too, when Senator Fred R. Harris, Democrat of Oklahoma, proclaimed: “There is no way to get out of Vietnam except to get out.”

Senator Birch Bayh, Democrat of Indiana, cautioned the students against stirring up “a backlash” by the use of violence. But he denounced “the shrill and divisive rhetoric of the Vice President and the pitting of one age against another, one region against another, one race against another.”

The students also heard pledges to seek peace from Senator Walter F. Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota; Senator Charles McC. Mathias Jr., Republican of Maryland; Senator George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, and Senator Gaylord Nelson, Democrat of Wisconsin.

About 200 college students, most of them New Yorkers, confronted Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, for an hour in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee room and received his promise to “see this war ended at the soonest possible time.”

Others crowded into offices and meeting rooms to hear House members including Representative Ailiard K. Lowenstein and Lester L. Wolff, Nassau Democrats; William F. Ryan, Manhattan Democrat and James G. O’Hara, Democrat of Michigan.

And one group of 40 Haverford and Bryn Mawr students met for 30 minutes with the House majority leader, Carl Albert of Oklahoma.

“It’s really frightening,” one young woman exclaimed as she left Mr. Albert’s office. “Here was the leader of the ‘good side’ and he didn’t grasp at all what was going on. I thought he was going to blow a gasket.”

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The New York Times (by Mike Lien)

LISTENING TO SENATOR: Haverford College students, many with new haircuts and closer-than-usual shaves to enhance their image, as Senator Eugene J. McCarthy accused President Nixon of "turning the Vice President loose on the country," in Washington yesterday. Thousands of students went to Capitol to talk to lawmakers.