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Workers Find Protest a 2-Way Street

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

Joseph C. Lauricella is a 47-year-old dock worker who was wounded at Guadalcanal and who lately finds his teen-aged son asking "very tough questions about war" during meals at their Brooklyn home.

"But he does what he's told in the end," said Mr. Lauricella.

John Cooke is a 37-year-old checker at Pier 32 on the Hudson River who said he was tired every night of turning on the television news and seeing "a one-sided point of view from demonstrators."

"Protest is the only thing that works today," Mr. Cooke said in the morning cool of the dock where a freighter with Polish hams and baskets was being unloaded.

Realizing the value of protest, the two longshoremen joined hundreds of other union workers who used their lunch hour yesterday to take to the streets in support of President Nixon and in opposition to his critics.

For the third straight working day, the blue-collar, hard-hatted workers left the steel skeletons of nascent skyscrapers and joined others from the loading sheds of the waterfront to march under the Stars and Stripes and chant, "U.S.A. all the way."

Joy and Anger

There was a swagger to the crowd, built of a kind of joy at being what participants saw as the first counter-response from a long-suffering middle America. And this joy could quickly shift to anger at the sight of a long-haired dissenter holding his hand in a V-sign on the other side of the police barricades.

In interviews, these newcomers to street protest described themselves as ordinary people, mainly family men and veterans, who had become fed up with various facets of the peace movement.

Many conceded they were short-tempered when it came

to reverence for the flag, but they insisted desecration of the flag by the other side was widespread and highly provocative.

"Communism must be fought every place," said Walter Flynn, a black construction worker from the Bronx who has four children. "A stop should be put to all this violence by kids."

The workers tended to emphasize traditional values. "Family life, some form of religion and patriotism — that's how you get a proper understanding and respect for these matters," said Mr. Cooke, the dock checker whose father was a boss on Pier 32 before him.

Peace—With Honor

"Personally I think this war has lasted too long: anyone who's simply for was is crazy," he continued. "But it has to be ended honorably, by people who have access to all the facts."

"I think most of these kids go into this for the fashion of it," Mr. Cooke, an Army veteran, said of antiwar dissenters. "But burning 20 years of research and stopping bridges doesn't make sense."

But Kevin Gleason, a 23-year-old, long-haired worker at the World Trade Center construction site, said in an interview yesterday, "I don't you

honor America by beating someone over the head with a flag."

Mr. Gleason, who marched last weekend in Washington in protest against the incursion into Cambodia, referred to the incidents last Friday in which some of the construction workers and longshoremen beat up peace demonstrators.

Yesterday, the workmen shouted threats toward dissenting bystanders but were restrained by the police.

"We're being provoked by kids who don't know what they want," said Mr. Lauricella, the dock worker, in explanation of the beatings. "This is a rolling stone," he continued, speaking of violence and counterviolence. "And next you'll see truck drivers and so forth until it's a national movement."

Mr. Lauricella said he had not engaged in any of the rough protesting. "But I can be provoked, too," he added.

"Listen," he said, "All of us have a breaking point. My son asks me, 'Why is there war, why are there troops over there?' Sometimes I really can't give him an answer. All I know is we have one leader and one country and must back them to the limit."

He thought for a moment and added: "If my son were over there I'd want the country to back him."