

Huge City Hall Rally Backs Nixon's Indochina Policies

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NY-TIMES By HOMER BIGART 21 MAY 70

Marching under a sea of American flags, helmeted construction workers led tens of thousands of noisy but peaceful demonstrators yesterday in a rally and parade supporting the Vietnam policies of President Nixon and assailing Mayor Lindsay and other opponents of the war in Indochina.

Staged by the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York to demonstrate "love of country and love and respect for our country's flag," the noontime rally on Broadway opposite City Hall drew a crowd estimated to number 60,000 to 150,000.

It was by far the largest pro-Administration rally since the construction workers began

Lawyers' Antiwar Lobby

While the rally was in progress, more than 1,000 New York City lawyers were in Washington lobbying against the war in Indochina. Details on Page 23.

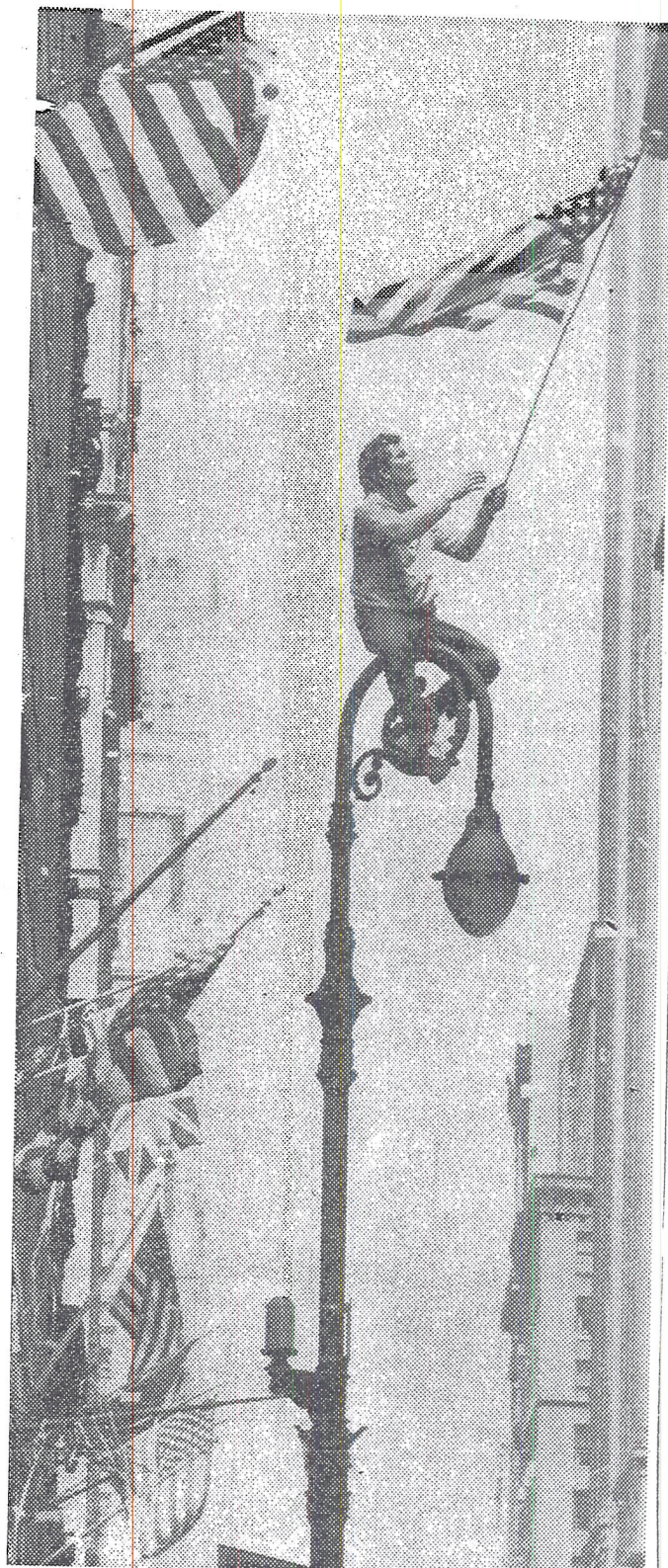
their almost daily demonstrations in the financial district May 8 to counter the antiwar rallies of students.

Today crowds at City Hall will rally to the sound of a different drum. A labor-student peace coalition will demonstrate at noon against the extension of the war into Cambodia.

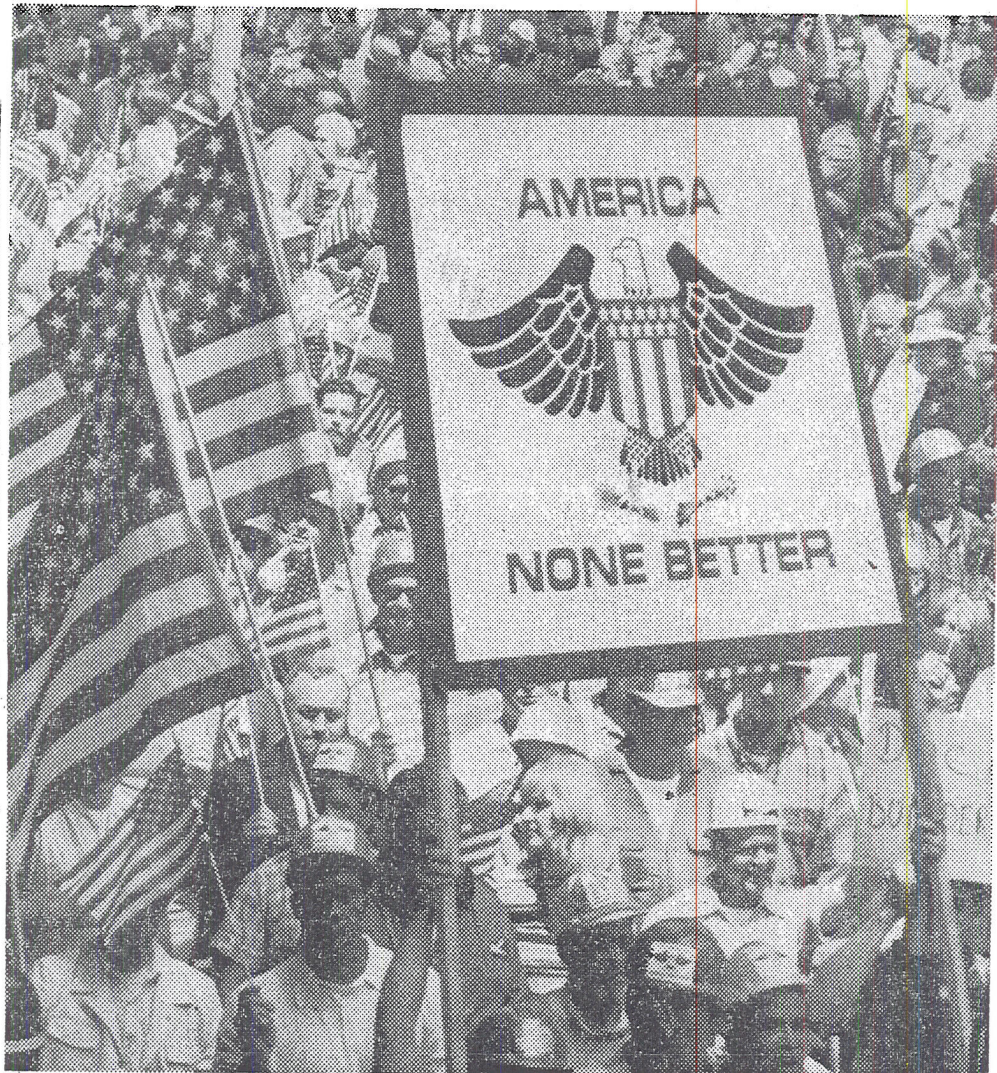
Flags, fervent oratory, patriotic tunes and a river of yellow, red and blue hard hats moving down Broadway marked yesterday's demonstration. It was a show of power that drew cascades of ticker tape in the financial district.

At Wall Street, three youths raised their arms in a peace salute; marchers booed them.

Continued on Page 22, Column 1



The New York Times
FROM EVERY POLE, A FLAG: As marchers group to parade below, this man adds another flag atop lamppost.



The New York Times (by Patrick A. Burns)

SUPPORT U.S. POLICY: Crowd of helmeted construction workers and others who share their cause gather in parade down Broadway in support of Nixon Administration policies.

MAY 21 1970

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

but made no attempt to break through the police lines to get to them.

Mayor Lindsay, prime target of slogans carried by the marchers, had spent the morning at United Nations and at the scene of the subway accident in Queens that killed two persons.

The Mayor returned to the City Hall area at 12:30 P.M. when the rally was already in progress. Workers had hanged an effigy of the Mayor on the lamppost at Murray Street, but then removed it at the request of the police.

The Mayor stayed in his car near the Municipal Building for about three minutes, consulting with aides. Then, the aides left the car and entered City Hall through a basement door and the Mayor was driven back uptown. Hundreds of police, mounted and on foot, sealed off City Hall.

3,800 Police in Area

Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary said he had assigned 3,800 men to the lower Manhattan area at a cost of \$275,040, of which \$175,000 represented overtime pay.

Hundreds of policemen in riot helmets marched at the rear of the parade. This led some spectators to believe that the police had joined the demonstration. A Police Department spokesman explained that they were there only as a "reserve" in case of disorders when the parade broke up at Bowling Green.

Exhorted by their leaders to keep cool and not behave "like roughnecks," the vast majority of workers avoided any show of bellicosity. Once, on lower Broadway, a youth perched on a building clock provoked the marchers by giving the V sign for peace. The workers booed, hurled beer cans at the young man and tried to charge police barricades.

A policeman made a human fly ascent up the side of the building and removed the young man from the clock. As the youth was led away in handcuffs, charged with disorderly conduct, he identified himself as James Mirrione, 20, of 1616 Ryder Street, Brooklyn, and said he was a student at St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn.

As the parade passed the Woolworth Building, someone dropped a cardboard box from a window on the 20th floor. It struck a marcher, Robert Conroy, 21, of 30-10 42d Street, Astoria, Queens. Mr. Conroy was taken to Beekman Downtown Hospital with a concussion.

Another man, Reuben Pearlman, 68, of 4716 14th Avenue, Brooklyn, suffered a leg fracture when he was either pushed or slipped off a curbstone outside 10 Warren Street.

Three others, including one woman, were collapsed in by the heat but declined hospital treatment.

The parade clogged lower Broadway for nearly two hours. A police source estimated the throng at 150,000, and although this figure seemed inflated, some observers said the turnout exceeded a 1967 outpouring of antiwar marchers, estimated by

the police at the time to number 125,000.

There were few bands, no drum majorettes, no floats. A concrete mixer was covered with workers waving flags and a slogan: "Lindsay for Mayor of Hanoi." Elsewhere in the parade the Mayor was urged for "President of North Vietnam," "President of Red China," and "President of Russia."

Two Indians in full tribal regalia shared the platform with labor leaders at Broadway and Murray Street.

"Impeach Lindsay" petitions were circulated through the crowd. On a side street, Donald Crowell of Short Hills, N.J., who said he was a member of the John Birch Society, collected signatures for a statement condemning the export of strategic items to Communist countries.

"I'm scared," said Cliff Sloane of Brooklyn, a freshman at the University of Michigan. "If this is what the class struggle is all about," he added, surveying the flag-waving workers, "there's something wrong somewhere."

Peter J. Brennan, president of the Construction Trades Council, was the chief speaker at Murray Street.

"History is being made here today," he said, "because we are supporting the boys in Vietnam and President Nixon."

Buffalo Workers Protest

Special to The New York Times

BUFFALO, May 20—About 1,500 construction workers demonstrated in support of the Nixon Administration's policies in southeast Asia at a rally this noon in front of City Hall.

They carried hundreds of American flags, sang patriotic songs and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Leaders of the 20,000-member Building and Construction Trades Council of Buffalo and vicinity presented flags to Mayor Frank A. Sedita and to Erie County Executive B. John Tutuska on the City Hall steps.

The rally was marred by a small disturbance when a young man wearing a business suit shouted "War Mongers" at some of the construction workers. He was knocked down, struck with a construction man's hard hat and jabbed at with a wooden flag pole before the police escorted him away. He was apparently not hurt.



The New York Times

CALLS FOR CALM: Peter Brennan, construction group leader, cautions his men.