

NY TIMES 22 MAY 78

9 Hurt as Police Disperse Group in Midtown After City Hall Peace Rally

By HOMER BIGART

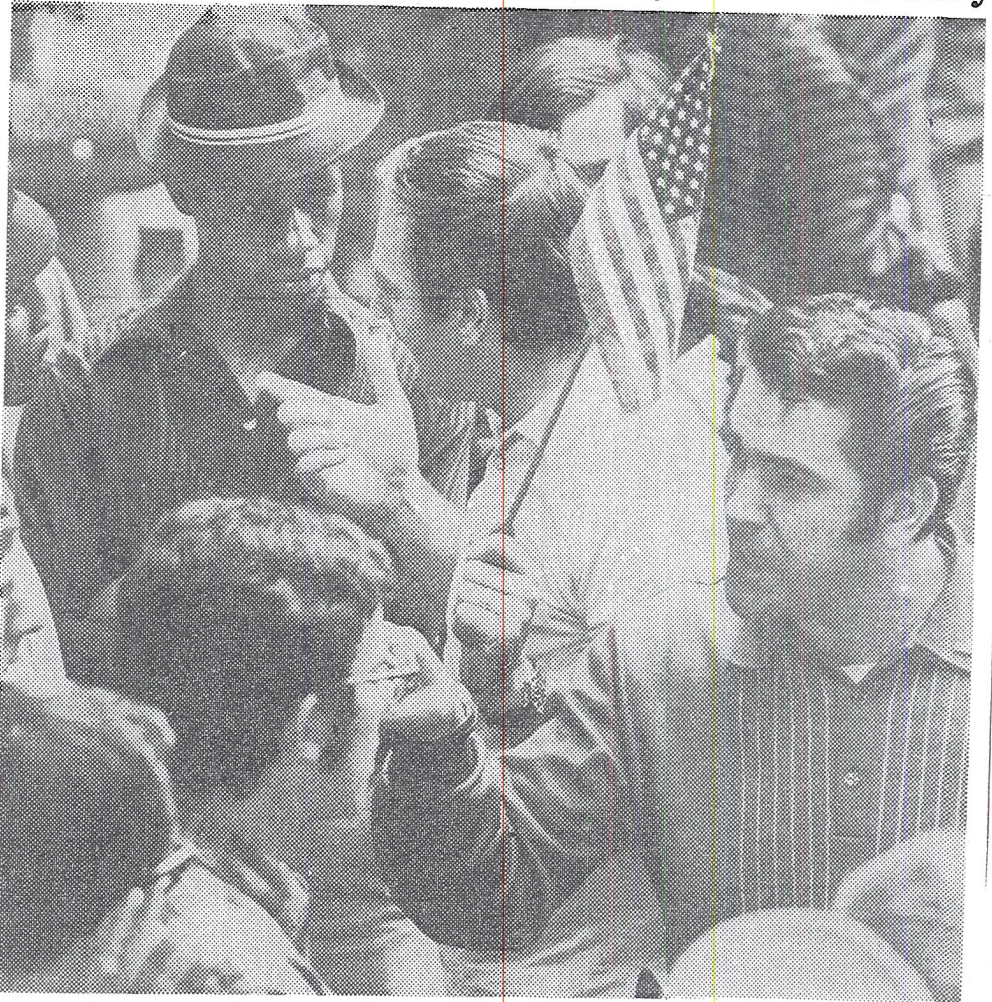
Nine antiwar demonstrators were injured yesterday when the police forcibly dispersed at Avenue of the Americas and 39th Street a militant group that had marched uptown from a peace rally of 20,000 at City Hall.

After letting some 1,000 protesters, mostly youths, disrupt traffic in the Village, Chelsea and Herald Square, the police suddenly called a halt to the northward incursion.*

With nightsticks extended, they charged into the ranks of marchers, sending youths sprawling and putting the rest to panicky flight. The nine injured were treated at St. Clare's Hospital, 415 West 51st Street.

This was the only violence to mar an otherwise peaceful and orderly demonstration by a newly formed coalition of workers and students.

The group, called the Coalition for Peace, had hoped for a demonstration large enough to rival the crowd of helmeted construction workers and others, variously estimated at from 60,000 to 150,000 people, who



The New York Times (by Patrick A. Burns)

Continued on Page 35, Column 1 Students and workers arguing their points during yesterday's peace rally at City Hall

* The previous day police had permitted march led by construction workers to clog lower Broadway for nearly two hours. See Homer Bigart, NYTimes 21 May.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

massed at City Hall Wednesday to support President Nixon's war policies.

But the antiwar demonstrators fell far short of the throng assembled by the construction workers. It was also less colorful. Only a scattering of small American flags appeared in the ranks. From a temporary stand at Broadway and Murray Street, labor leaders told the crowd that the chanting of peace slogans was immature.

"We will not compete with the slogans of phony patriotism," said Victor Gotbaum, head of District 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Given this injunction, the crowd was not wildly demonstrative. Mayor Lindsay issued a statement—before the flurry of violence on the Avenue of the Americas—praising the leaders for keeping the demonstration peaceful.

"Today's demonstration at City Hall — like yesterday's — was peaceful and orderly," the Mayor said. "It reflects credit on both the leaders of the demonstration, the participants and the police who once again did a thoroughly professional job.

"The two rallies, seen together, show that the American tradition of peaceful demonstration and dialogue is still the best and only way."

The brief confrontation on the Avenue of the Americas ended a slow march by two groups of demonstrators that left City Hall after the rally and tried to reach Bryant Park.

Traffic Slowed

Both groups numbered about 1,000. They walked north on Church Street and the Avenue of the Americas, slowing traffic behind them to a crawl.

Straggling through Greenwich Village, the first group, carrying signs assailing President Nixon and Vice President Agnew, received a mixed reception.

Suddenly an attic window was flung open. Framed in it was a little gray-haired old woman. In her hands she held the Stars and Stripes. From a group of long-haired, sandal-shod youths marching behind the black flag of anarchism came a challenge: "What kind of flag is that?"

The woman leaned far out on the window sill and waved the flag while the rebel youth shuffled by.

"Take a bath, you Commie bums," this modern-day Barbara Frietchie counseled the youths.

An irate truck driver harassed the marchers by blowing his horn as he followed for several blocks, vainly trying to pass.

Outside the Women's House of Detention he nearly slipped by. Then a crowd surrounded his truck and tried to pull him out. The police came to his aid and dispersed the youths.

The First Arrest

At 21st Street, the police made their first arrest, seizing one of several youths who surrounded a squad car, banging their fists on the hood. He was identified as Karl Rosenstein, of 56 Mountain House Road, South Orange, N. J., and he was charged with criminal mischief.

The first group of marchers, confronted by a police barricade at 40th Street, allowed themselves to be shunted westward on 39th Street. Another solid line of police diverted them southward on Broadway.

But the next group coming up the Avenue of the Americas seemed more determined to reach Bryant Park. Scuffles broke out when the police began moving them back. Mount-

ed policemen rode into the crowd and it broke in panic down side streets.

At least two persons were arrested. Steven Jonas, 33 years old, of 249 Dean Street, Brooklyn, was charged with assault after he allegedly punched Patrolman Richard Albrazi. Louis Lionni, 37, of 54 St. Marks Place, was booked for disorderly conduct after he was charged with shoving an office

Some of the marchers contended that they had heard no order to disperse and that the police "attack" was unprovoked.

Brief Confrontation

At City Hall, some 2,700 policemen, most of them on overtime, ringed City Hall Park and kept the antiwar demonstrators from clashing with a group of flag-carrying construction workers.

There was a brief confrontation outside the Woolworth Building. A pro-Administration crowd sang "God Bless America" at an antiwar group who confronted them with peace signs. For 10 minutes the group taunted each other until the police forced them back.