

Heckled at N.Y.U. Rites, Wald Recites the Pledge

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

Dr. George Wald, the anti-war Nobel laureate, responded to a smattering of heckling from parents and students at the New York University commencement yesterday by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance with emphasis.

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the republic for which it stands—never forget the republic for which it stands," the Harvard biology professor declared to the few students and parents who interrupted and booed his speech at Madison Square Garden. The hecklers were far outnumbered by those who responded favorably to Dr. Wald's speech.

"Down with Communists!" one parent, carrying a camera, shouted from his seat as Dr. Wald severely criticized the Vietnam war and urged drastic cuts in military spending.

Dr. Wald, who established himself as a leading academic critic of the war with a talk he gave in March, 1969, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said that the problems troubling the young then "have all deteriorated further."

Past Father Figures

"Where is the man who embodies all the things we hope for and need, and has charisma besides?" Dr. Wald asked, peering up from a special stage toward the audience of 10,000, sitting in the arena's gold, aqua, orange and green seats.

"The point is we don't find him any more. But perhaps this is a good thing. Perhaps the time has come for American politics to grow up past father figures and deal with issues."

The professor, who has a corona of long gray hair, drew laughter at times with criticism of such military projects as the troubled C-5A transport plane. "The wings have a tendency to crack off," he said drily, "so all those planes are under a positive order never

to attempt to fly with more than half a load."

He drew applause, particularly from the graduates, when he criticized United States involvement in the war in Indochina, contending ground troops were being removed only to "professionalize and institutionalize" the conflict under the "Nixon doctrine that Asians fight Asians."

The Draft Assailed

Dr. Wald also criticized the draft, contending that plans to reform it were merely attempts to add equity under a policy of "doing to all what should not be done to anybody."

Approximately 1,500 students attended the commencement. A total of 8,400 degrees were awarded.

The small turnout was attributed to the fact that some of the students graduated last fall and spring, and many others chose not to come in a de-emphasis of campus tradition that, according to a university spokesman, predates current war protests. A number of students wore antiwar symbols on their motorboards and some did not wear a cap and gown, but there was no demonstration, except the light heckling of Dr. Wald.

The commencement, the university's 138th, was entitled "A Convocation for Peace."

The school awarded honorary degrees to the following: Saul Bellow, the novelist; Angie E. Brooks of Liberia, president of the United Nations General Assembly; Arthur F. Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board; Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, the psychologist and state regent; Terence Cardinal Cooke, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York; Edward Weinfeld, Federal district judge.

The student speaker was Phyllis L. Haynes of the College of Arts and Science.

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