

500 G.I.'S AT DEBUT OF ANTIWAR SHOW

Entertainers Call It a Reply
to Bob Hope Excursions

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FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., March 14—With a gusto once reserved for cadence counts, the battalion of young soldiers raise their voices in a lusty refrain:

"Join the G. I. Movement, boys, join the G. I. Movement," they chant in a crowded coffeehouse, lifting clenched fists and two-finger peace symbols, exuberantly shouting new worlds to an old labor-movement song that has become the anthem of their discontent.

They represent a small but seemingly growing minority in the armed forces, and last night they came from nearby Fort Bragg to the darkened coffeehouse here to witness the debut of a three-hour, antiwar, anti-military stage show written and produced with them in mind.

The show stars Jane Fonda, Gregory, Peter Boyle, Ronald Sutherland and Barbara Dane. Its premiere performance was a biting blend of political satire and irreverent humor that clearly went over well with the 500 soldiers in the audience.

"They'll pack them in wherever they go," predicted Capt. Fred Blitzer, a dentist from New Jersey, who was one of the few officers in the audience.

A Reply to Hope Trips

The show has been characterized by its sponsors the United States Servicemen's Fund, as a response to the annual excursions of Bob Hope to South Vietnam and other countries where American soldiers are stationed.

Miss Fonda and other antiwar entertainers complain that Mr. Hope and an entourage of show business celebrities and beauty queens have offered their G. I. audiences all over the world a brand of holiday entertainment generally confined to traditional gibes at military foibles while avoiding criticism of this country's involvement in Indochina.

Here last night in the Haymarket Square coffeehouse, one of several such establishments operated by the Fund at various military installations around the country, the thrust was distinctly counter to the Hope theme.

Swamp Dogg Plays

Instead of Les Brown's Band of Renown playing "Thanks for the Memory," there was Swamp Dogg, a bombastic, 10-piece rock band, playing "God Bless America for What."

Instead of the curvaceous Gold-diggers drawing whoops and whistles with a precisely choreographed routine, there was Miss Dane in a gray, woolen shift singing a Vietcong morale song in her folk singer's contralto.

And finally, instead of Mr. Hope, there was Mr. Gregory in a four-button suit urging the young audience to vote as a block, raise the draft age to 75 years "and send all them older cats to Vietnam with John Wayne leading them." The show is written by Jules Feiffer.

Although admission cost \$2.50 and the band members were the only paid performers, money was evidently still a problem as the stars and the coffeehouse staff went through last-minute rehearsals yesterday afternoon. By the time the small hall began filling late in the evening, there was talk in every corner of a need for funds to meet expenses.

"Just remember," Mr. Gregory said as a dented bucket and soft-drink cups were passed through the audience, "we're not sponsored by Chrysler," a reference to Mr. Hope's television relationship with the giant automobile corporation.

Police on Patrol

While the soldiers laughed Fayetteville policemen patrolled outside, apprehensive that the show, officially banned on Army posts, might provoke incidents in this militarily oriented community of 40,000.

City officials had refused to let the show be performed in the municipal auditorium and, when a Federal judge reversed their decision, they demanded a \$150,000 insurance policy against damages to the 2,500-seat hall. The sponsors of the show said the cost was prohibitive and it was scheduled for the coffeehouse.

But there were no incidents. Around the corner from the jammed Haymarket Square, other soldiers pursued other diversions: browsing in a uniform store that featured a sweatshirt with the inscription "Paratrooper—Born to Raise Hell"; drinking beer in the Crop-Zone Lounge; or paying \$3 to see a film called "101 Acts of Love."