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92 IN CAPITAL HELD IN ANTIWAR RALLY

Most Are Seminarians—5
Religious Leaders in Vigil

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 5—The District of Columbia police arrested 92 antiwar demonstrators, most of them young seminarians, near the White House today.

A few yards away from where the police quietly and gently arrested the participants in a "Holy Week witness against the war," five prominent religious leaders began a fast and vigil for Easter and Passover.

Also there was the Rev. Carl C. McIntire, the fundamentalist minister from Collingswood, N. J., who came to seek converts to his scheduled May 8 "march for victory" in Indochina.

The interfaith group of seminarians, reportedly seeking arrest to dramatize their protest, sang folk hymns and listened to readings from the Passion of Christ as they sat on the sidewalk in front of the Executive Office Building, adjacent to the White House. Behind the group was a charred wooden cross.

Warned Twice by Police

The police warned the demonstrators twice that they lacked a permit to gather near the White House and must disperse or face arrest for "blocking the sidewalk." The demonstrators sat fast, and as they sang "They'll know we are Christians by our love," a police officer announced the final warning.

When the group remained, the police began arresting them and, within half an hour, had the sidewalk cleared.

Directly in front of the White House, the five religious leaders stood, name tags on their coats, and explained their vigil to onlookers. They were Wil-

liam Thompson, a layman, who is the Stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church; Bishop James Armstrong of the United Methodist Church for the Dakotas areas; the Rev. Daniel Burke, president of La Salle College in Philadelphia; the right Rev. Robert L. DeWitt, Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania, and Rabbi Eugene Lipman, president of the Washington Board of Rabbis.

Backs Calley Prosecution

Mr. Thompson, who was an assistant prosecutor at the war crimes trials in Tokyo following World War II, said that he felt the Army had "no choice but to prosecute" First Lieut. William L. Calley Jr. and any other officer accused of violating the rules of war.

But Mr. McIntire, who chatted briefly with Mr. Thompson and the clergymen, said that public protests against the murder conviction of Lieutenant Calley for the death of at least 22 South Vietnamese civilians had "strengthened" his movement for a victory in Southeast Asia.

"The Calley situation is the result of a no-win policy," he said. "A strong outbreak of patriotism is now manifest. We want that to support the war."

Mr. McIntire preached to the seminarians, who attempted to disregard him until the clergyman declared that "he who lives by the sword shall perish by the sword," then some of the demonstrators answered, "right on."

Religious Papers Protest

Four national Protestant and Roman Catholic journals have published a joint Holy Week editorial accusing the United States of "repeating the crucifixion of Christ" by its policies in Southeast Asia.

The editorial, appearing in the current issues of *Commonweal*, *Christianity and Crisis*, *Christian Century* and *The National Catholic Reporter*, says Jesus was put to death "by soldiers of an imperial army in a conquered land, under a ruler who enforced distorted law and maintained an oppressive order."

It accuses the Nixon Administration of taking "the leading role" in killing and wounding thousands of South Vietnamese civilians, "laying waste an agrarian land" by bombing and defoliation and sustaining a Saigon Government "that oppresses its own people."

Noting that "Holy Week has long been a time for Christian self-assessment and renewal," the journals call on American Christians to unite with others in "effective actions that will finally shut down the machinery of this war."