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BURGER PROHIBITS CAMPING ON MALL

Reinstates Washington Ban on Protesting Veterans

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WASHINGTON, April 20—

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger late today reinstated a District Court ban against overnight camping on the Mall by Vietnam veterans demonstrating for an end to the war.

But the Government decided, because of the lateness of the decision, not to seek the removal of 1,000 veterans from the Mall tonight.

The protesters, calling themselves Vietnam Veterans Against the War, began a week-long series of demonstrations and mock "search and destroy" missions here yesterday, attempting to emphasize the brutality of the war.

Meanwhile, their decision to camp on the Mall's open spaces has generated a constitutional argument that swept from a district court to the Supreme Court in just five days.

Ramsey Clark, the former Attorney General, who has been arguing the case of the veterans, said that he would seek a decision by the full Supreme Court tomorrow to overrule Chief Justice Burger's order.

Ruling on Friday

United States District Court Judge George L. Hart Jr. ruled last Friday that Interior Department regulations would permit the veterans to sing or dance on the mall, but not to sleep.

A three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, modified Judge Hart's injunction against overnight camping in a ruling yesterday. The three judges ruled that the demonstrators had a right to sleep on the Government's parkland, but not to break ground or build campfires. They were not permitted to pitch tents for any but medical purposes.

At 3:30 this afternoon, the Justice Department asked Chief Justice Burger to vacate the order of the appeals court to stay the district court's injunction. Mr. Clark filed a brief at 5:45, urging the Chief Justice not make a decision until giving both sides an opportunity to present oral argument. Mr. Clark also sought a decision by the full Court.

But at about 6:14 the Chief Justice signed the order sought by the Government. He also circulated Mr. Clark's memorandum to the other Justices, who have the power, should they choose, to vote to overrule him.

Mr. Clark was preparing to notify the leaders of the veterans group of the Chief Justice's decision when he received word from the Justice Department that the Government would not seek to enforce the injunction until 4:30 P.M. tomorrow.