

WAR RALLY TODAY EXPECTS NEW AID

'First-Time' Protesters May
Make Up for Student Loss

By JOHN DARNTON

Organizers of the New York contingent in today's mass antiwar rally in Washington are counting upon legions of "first time" protesters — from the suburbs, the trade unions, and from new political groups—to offset what they agree is a noticeable drop in student involvement in war protests.

As last-minute preparations were being made yesterday, from providing buttons to procuring buses, the groups here were mobilizing to transport as many as 100,000 marchers.

This time, judging from those who have already signed up for charter transportation, the ranks will include more older people and more who are either city working class or "establishment" suburban.

"We used to talk about organizing beyond the student community, and this time we were able to do it," said John Mount, 24-year-old former systems analyst who works for the New York Peace Action Coalition.

"Eighty per cent of our ticket buyers are over 30," observed Norma Becker, co-ordinator of the Vietnam Peace Parade Committee.

Taking Up the Slack

Some were dismayed that students, vanguard of antiwar rallies in the last two years, appeared to be disillusioned about the efficacy of mass protest. But others were hopeful that the slack would be taken up in a broadening of the peace movement.

For example, Local 1199 of the Drug and Hospital Workers Union said it had sold 2,500 seats on 50 buses leaving from the city. Another has chartered an entire train. Projections from the Peace Action Coalition are that at least 6,000 union members from here will show up.

The coalition, which is handling most of the organized charters, said 500 buses, five trains and three airplanes had been chartered to carry 30,000 protesters from the metropolitan area. They expect 70,000 more New Yorkers to go by other means.

In contrast to previous years, a high proportion of the buses are coming from small towns on Long Island and in Connecticut, Westchester County and northern New Jersey.

Yesterday, a dozen offices around Manhattan were buzzing with the sounds of protest preparation.

Targets on Map

In one office, at 156 Fifth Avenue, members of the Mayday Coalition were pouring over maps of Washington that pinpointed 21 targets for non-violent civil disobedience in the week beginning May 1.

Down the corridor, the People's Peace Treaty was collating signatures on a document signed by students from the United States and North and South Vietnam. They hope to have it introduced as a resolution on the floor of the House of Representatives next Wednesday.

Four flights above, the office of Vietnam Veterans Against the War was almost deserted because its members are already protesting. The only occupant was Frank Miranda, 22 years old, from Brooklyn, who was arrested in Washington Thursday, returned for one day and plans to go back.

"I don't want to, but it's my obligation," he said. "When I was in Nam, my first taste of combat was seeing American soldiers killing 5-year-old Vietnamese children. It's got to stop."