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SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1971

Militants Cut Peace Rally Short Here



La Raza activists storming peace rally speaker's platform in park

A Throng Marches In Parade

By Larry D. Hatfield

The largest peace demonstration in San Francisco's history drew as many as an estimated 150,000 antiwar demonstrators here yesterday to demand immediate withdrawal of American troops from Indochina.

A massive rally following the march was abruptly ended in late afternoon after La Raza militants took over the speakers' stand on two separate occasions.

Sponsors of the march downgraded — or completely dismissed — the discordant end to the demonstration, calling it "a smashing demonstration to Nixon that this war must end."



Peace parade as it headed west on Geary Blvd. toward Fillmore Street yesterday
—Examiner Photo

The march and demonstration were mostly peaceful. Police reported only six arrests, all for drunkenness.

Crowd estimates varied widely. Police Traffic Director I. Thomas Zaragoza said at the height of the march, there were 73,000 persons. At one point, the line of march stretched from the starting point on the Embarcadero all the way to the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park, about seven miles.

Police Count

Supervising Police Capt. Jeremiah Taylor said the of-

A massive rally following within the Polo Field was official police count for those tion Center, however, said that the peak number of demonstrators was 156,000.

Sgt. Edward Epting, of the police tactical squad, estimated the crowd at the Polo Field, as of 1 p.m., at 174,900.

March sponsors, according to NPCA spokesman Bob Davis, estimated the crowd at "more than 300,000."

Reporters put the crowd at about 150,000 at its peak.

Whatever figure was used, most observers agreed yesterday's demonstration was larger than the Moratorium Day crowd on Nov. 15, 1969. Estimates then ranged from 60,000 to 250,000.

Shrugged Off

Dan Rosenshine, top West Coast official of the sponsoring National Peace Action Coalition, dismissed the Chicago takeover, saying, "Our program was scheduled to end at 4 p.m. and it did."

Although La Raza speakers forcefully "changed the peace rally's program, Rosenshine said, "Our chair

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people did a very excellent job of chairing the rally."

He repeatedly refused to respond to suggestions, voiced loudly by demonstrators leaving Golden Gate Park, that the march and the antiwar movement, had suffered a setback because of the La Raza action.

As a result of the confused action on the platform, Rep. Paul N. "Pete" McCloskey, most prominent of the scheduled 28 speakers, left the rally without speaking.

Obscenity Aspects

NPCA spokesman at first said the San Mateo Republican was upset at obscenities directed at the predominantly young and white crowd by La Raza speakers. They quoted McCloskey as saying, "I'm disappointed that this happened."

Rosenshine, however, said after the rally that "he had another commitment. We



One demonstrator painted face to resemble flag
—UPI Photo

flew him in here by helicopter, you know. He couldn't stay."

Other speakers who failed to stay after the La Raza move included pacifist David Harris, husband of folksinger Joan Baez.

The Polo Field rally, characterized for the most part in its early stages by the ultra-moderate stance of the speakers, became more dramatic at mid-afternoon when La Raza supporters forcefully took over the program.

Tapia Takes Over

The takeover, which seemed to be missed by most of the crowd at first, was sparked by Abe Tapia of Los

Angeles, president of the Mexican-American Political Association.

Tapia went on the platform after Assemblyman John Burton (D-San Francisco) had urged the crowd to contribute money to help pay off the NPAC's \$35,000 debt for yesterday's demonstration.

Tapia said Chicanos, Native Americans and other Third World peoples were tired of whites "like Assemblyman Burton asking poor people for money." He used an obscene word to describe Burton.

He also took swipes at comedian-activist Dick Gregory and a rock group called Big Brother and the Holding Company, who held the stage immediately before his appearance.

Gregory, to the loudest and longest applause of the afternoon, had pledged a fast (except for liquids) "until this was is over."

Rock Music

Big Brother and the Holding Company followed Gregory with some rock music, but when Tapia came on to begin the takeover, he said, "First

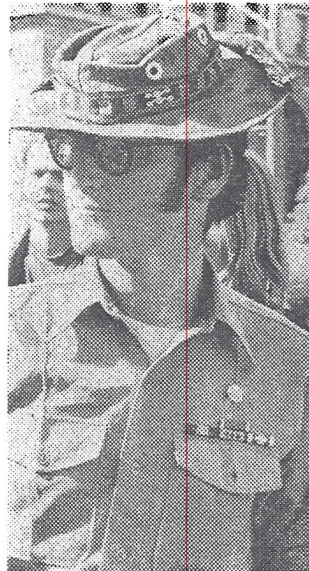
A Record S. F. Peace Rally



Many huge banners were carried during S.F. march to Golden Gate Park. Sailor held end of this one. —Examiner Photo



ON THE LINE OF MARCH
Mayor Alioto talks with crowd on Geary Street
—Examiner Photo



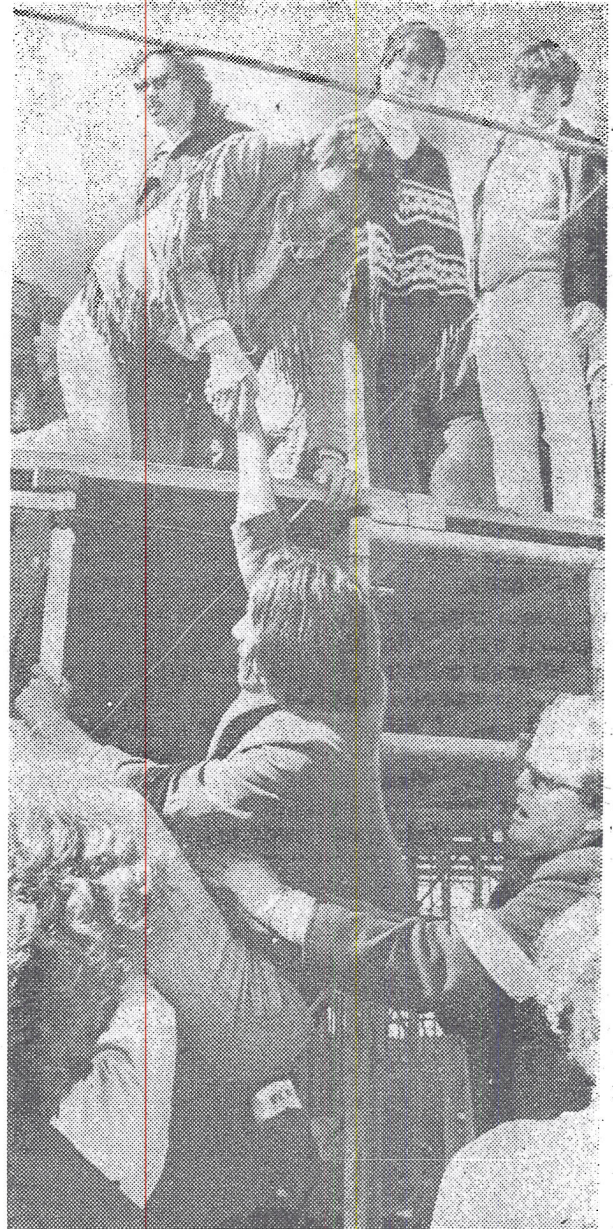
One veteran displayed his battle ribbons in parade
—Examiner Photo



ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN BURTON
His remarks attacked



REP. McCLOSKEY JUMPS FENCE TO PLATFORM
He left hurriedly later after militants took over mike



AN ACTIVIST CLIMBING TO POLO FIELD ROSTRUM
A peace rally monitor (at right) tries to keep him below

—Examiner Photos

"Peace Peace! Peace!" in response to Sanchez' call for a violent revolution to topple the "Establishment."

Cools It Off

The Rev. Cecil Williams, pastor of Glide Memorial Church and an NPAC moderator, finally restored semi order. Other scheduled speakers, including women's liberation spokesmen, resumed the rally.

As the program drew toward the end, however, a dozen Brown Berets began ripping down the plywood partition around the stage in an apparent attempt at a second takeover.

The microphones were abruptly turned off, and the rally was brought to a close at 4:05 p.m. to avert possible trouble.

During the demonstration, war veterans in the crowd were asked to throw down their medals. A total of 16 medals, including a Silver Star and several Purple Hearts, were slung over the railing by Vietnam veterans.

Cross-Section

Although yesterday's crowd was largely young and

colorfully dressed, there were large numbers of "hardhats," newsmen, business executives in ties and buttoned-down shirts, and uniformed military men.

Mayor Alioto got out of his car at 27th Avenue and Geary Boulevard and mingled with spectators.

The military men included, in uniform, a Marine captain, an Army private first class and a Navy lieutenant.

The march, which started from the foot of Market Street at 9 a.m., was led by non-uniformed members of the Concerned Officers Movement, which includes officers and enlisted men from every military base in the Bay Area.

At the rally, Lt. Cmdr. Robert Burns of Mare Island told demonstrators, "I am happy to say there are 10,000 GIs here today. We are just the tip of the iceberg."

Blames U.S. Policy

Another speaker was Delia Alvarez, a sister of Navy Lt. Everett Alvarez Jr., of Santa Clara, who was the first acknowledged American POW

'of all, I want this (obscenity) music stopped." The rock group stopped, packed and left.

Tapia then said, "Dick Gregory says he's not gonna eat until this war is over. Then I say I'm not gonna talk until all the La Raza people . . . the Native Americans . . . the Asian-Americans get up here with me."

During the series of La Raza speeches, David Sanchez, prime minister of the Brown Berets, was shouted off the stage by several hundred persons chanting

in the Vietnam war. He was shot down over North Vietnam in 1964.

His sister said Alvarez was "a victim of our government's inhuman policies and not those of Vietnam."

One of the speakers was Paul Schrade, western regional director of the United Auto Workers, who told the throng the Indochina war was "a labor problem . . . because labor is suffering lost wages . . . and lost lives" from it.

Also marching in the miles-long demonstration were contingents representing "business executives," the gay liberation movement, women's lib, Angela Davis-Soledad Brothers defenders and a variety of other causes.

Taken in Stride

Although large numbers of extra police were on hand, there was little need for them except traffic control.

The peace march and rally yesterday was staffed by Examiner reporters Don Branning, Phil Garlington Jr., Malcolm Glover, Larry D. Hatfield, Almema Lomas, William O'Brien, Dexter Waugh, and Alice Yarish. Examiner photographers included Paul Glines, Walt Lynett, Howard Robbins, and Matt Southard.

City residents took the demonstration in stride. A homeowner on Geary Boulevard, the main march route, put out paper cups and his hose for thirsty marchers to water down.

The Muni put on 50 to 60 extra buses to handle the crowd. Transportation officials here said they were handling "huge" crowds leaving The City for points throughout the West.