

All Sides Applaud Peaceful Protest in Washington

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WASHINGTON, April 25—The organizers of yesterday's antiwar demonstration and city officials said today that they were pleased that the massive march and rally had not been accompanied by violence.

The Washington Police Chief, Jerry V. Wilson, said the demonstration, attended by a crowd he estimated at 200,000, "went very well—there was no trouble, and we hadn't expected any."

Jerry Gordon, a coordinator for the National Peace Action Coalition, which sponsored the protest, said at a news conference that his group was happy with the "totally legal, peaceful and orderly" character of yesterday's activities.

The police reported only 25 arrests in connection with the march, all for minor offenses. Other antiwar rallies here have generally been peaceful, but nearly all have been preceded or followed by clashes between some of the demonstrators and the police.

Tear Gas Unneeded

In the wake of the antiwar march in November, 1969, which drew 250, protesters, a crowd of several hundred attacked the Justice Department headquarters. And after a demonstration here last May there was scattered violence.

In contrast to the earlier demonstrations, no tear gas was used yesterday.

The dozens of police officers dispatched as a precaution to the South Vietnamese Embassy and to the Georgetown and Dupont Circle areas of the city, which have been targets of window-smashing attacks, found themselves with nothing to do.

This morning, in an unrelated incident, more than 100 Quakers were arrested and charged with crossing police lines when they attempted to move the site of a peace vigil they had been conducting in Lafayette Park across the street to the sidewalk in front of the White House.

Mayor Walter W. Washington said today that he was "exuberant" over the lack of trouble yesterday. He credited it to the relaxed atmosphere of both the demonstrators and the police and to the extensive planning between protest organizers and city and Federal officials.

One incident that typified this atmosphere occurred on Pennsylvania Avenue late yesterday as people had begun to leave the rally on the west lawn of the Capitol, the focal point of the protest.

A long-haired youth, walking down the street, called out to no one in particular, "Hey, anybody got a dollar? I've got a spare joint [of marijuana]!" He quickly found a buyer, and the transaction was completed in full view of two police officers.

Preparations Cost \$150,000

At today's news conference, Mr. Gordon estimated that preparations for the demonstration had cost his group \$150,000, mostly for advertising, telephone calls and rent on the one-floor office that his organization occupies in a downtown building near the White House.

He said the organization was about \$60,000 in arrears, but expressed the hope that private contributions, the chief source of support, would eventually eliminate the deficit.

Many of the marchers left

Washington last night, but at least 15,000 young people remained to spend the night in sleeping bags on the Washington Monument grounds, where a rock music concert continued until the early morning.

The People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, which was a cosponsor of yesterday's protest, was busy exhorting the marchers to remain in Washington to participate in a program of lobbying at Congress and Government offices it had scheduled for this week.

Different Approaches

The People's Coalition, along with the National Peace Action Coalition, was formed when an ideological disagreement split the defunct New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam last summer. The New Mobe, as it was known, organized the November, 1969, demonstration here and the one last May following the Cambodia incursion.

The National Peace Action Coalition argues that peaceful, legal protest on a mass scale is the most efficacious tactic for bringing pressure against the Government to end the war. The People's Coalition, by contrast, supports individual civil disobedience on a continuing basis.

Sidney Peck, a former New Mobilization coordinator, who is now active with the People's Coalition, said his group was hoping that "several thousand" people would remain in Washington to take part in the lobbying activities. But another spokesman confided that "it's really up in the air now—nobody knows how many people are going to stay in town."

The People's Coalition, which is closely affiliated with the National Welfare Rights Organization, the Southern Christian Leadership Council and a group of radical young people that calls itself Mayday, plans to visit the Capitol Hill offices of Congressmen tomorrow and conduct 24-hour vigils in some of them, invited or otherwise.

Other Issues Pressed

In addition to pressing its demands for an immediate withdrawal of United States military forces from Indochina, the People's Coalition will ask the Congressmen to support a guaranteed annual income of \$6,500 for a family of four and the release of all "domestic political prisoners," including Black Panthers and student radicals.

The so-called "People's Lobby" will move to the Selective Service headquarters on Tuesday, where workers will be urged to take the day off and work to end the draft, and to other Government agencies later in the week, including the Internal Revenue Service and the Justice Department.

The scenario for the activities, which also calls for non-violent but possibly illegal protests at the Pentagon next week, has been a troublesome issue to organizers of the National Peace Action Coalition, who have carefully avoided either criticizing or endorsing it.

"The antiwar movement has different wings and reflects different philosophies," Mr. Gordon said today. "There are moments when we all come together as we did yesterday, and there are moments when we initiate our own activities."

The Peace Action Coalition said this afternoon that it was endorsing only two of the

vents scheduled for the next month, the national moratorium called by a number of student groups for May 5 to commemorate the deaths of four Kent State University students a year ago, and another national demonstration timed to coincide with Armed Forces Day, which is May 15.

'Legal, Peaceful Means'

Asked why the National Peace Action Coalition had made no mention of the other activities, Mr. Gordon said, "Our tactics are confined to legal, peaceful means of expression against the war. We're simply not interested in getting into differences with other antiwar groups."

The radical Mayday group, whose formal title is Students and Youth for a People's Peace,

plans to arrive in Washington next Saturday vowing to use nonviolent civil disobedience to "stop the Government if the Government does not stop the war."

Organizers for the Mayday group, which is generally considered to be the youth arm of the People's Coalition, have prepared a sophisticated "Tactical Manual" showing 21 bridges, highways and intersections at which sit-ins or other blockades are recommended as a means of creating "social chaos" throughout the city.

Rennard C. Davis, one of the seven defendants in the Chicago conspiracy trial, which grew out of disruptions at the Democratic National Convention in 1968, is a leader of the Mayday group.



CONFRONTATION AT THE WHITE HOUSE: As an orderly group of 100 Quakers sat down on sidewalk yesterday and were arrested by District of Columbia policemen, other

demonstrators, on north side of Pennsylvania Avenue attempted to join them and were also arrested. Another group continued antiwar protests in Lafayette Park.

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