

## Lawyers Stage Rally to Protest War

By LESLEY OELSNER

Hundreds of lawyers took to the streets here yesterday in uncharacteristic protest against the war in Vietnam.

They came from the staid old firms of Wall Street, dressed in pin-striped suits and wearing watch chains and horn-rimmed glasses; from the law schools, in blue jeans and khakis; from the radical law communes, carrying placards that said "Off the pig" and "In the halls of justice the only justice is in the halls."

All massed together, just before noon, at the southern tip of City Hall Park. Then, in loose formation, they set off for Foley Square to hear 10 men and one woman decry the war.

### Forces Consolidated

At the head of the line were Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr., Republican of California, and Representative Herman Badillo of New York, and two men who, to many, have long epitomized the restraint of an eminently restrained profession, former Justice Bernard Botein, president of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and Francis T. P. Plimpton, his predecessor.

At Foley Square now about 2,000 strong, they regrouped, having gained further troops from the courts across the street. The speeches began.

"I was a judge for over half my adult life," Justice Botein said. "In that capacity I was conditioned to neutrality and restraint. Despite this conditioning, I have no hesitancy in saying that the time is long, long past when the Administration can resist the manifest will of most of the people."

There followed other lawyers of equal prominence, who pointed out that today would be Law Day, a day usually marked across the country by speeches about the role of law.

Bar associations and law schools, scheduled speeches or meetings for the occasion; judges in the city's courts noted the day for the court record, and Mayor Lindsay proclaimed May 1 "Law Day U.S.A.," asking all "citizens, organizations, churches and schools" to recognize the day in "appropriate ways."

But as yesterday's speakers pointed out, the main Law Day function for New York's lawyers this year was discussion not of law but of war—for the

conduct of the war, they said, had made the American people lose faith in law.

Representative McCloskey suggested that lawyers start a "debate on whether the President has exceeded his constitutional powers and whether that justifies the constitutional remedy of impeachment." Mayor Lindsay repeated his position that the war hurt the cities by channeling money elsewhere.

Norman Dorsen, general counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union, and Representative Bella Abzug of Manhattan criticized the legal profession. "Many of you lawyers have tremendous political input," Mrs. Abzug said. "You haven't used it. You have tremendous agitation input. You never use it."

Among those in the crowd who agreed with Mrs. Abzug were the Lawyers Committee to End the War, which had arranged the demonstration, and the more radical Ad Hoc Law Workers Committee for Justice, which had arranged a bit of street theater to go with the speeches to remind the profession that there were other issues besides the war.

There was a young girl with a fishing rod, sitting in front of a trash can and wearing a sign that read, "Fishing for Justice."

And there was Ruth Cassell, a student at Brooklyn Law School, carrying a sign that said "Revolution Is in Order." When asked by a Wall Street lawyer what she thought she was doing Miss Cassell replied: "You're a lawyer." You should know about free speech."