

# 'It Takes Guts to Be Non-Violent'

WASHINGTON — (AP) — "Non-violence isn't for sissies. It takes guts to be non-violent."

It was the eve of the long-awaited May Day attempt to stop the Capital in its tracks through massive, non-violent civil disobedience, and a smattering of troops from the "Peace Army" were getting a final lecture before the dawn.

It had been a long day, beginning with the "army's" eviction from its campsite in West Potomac Park early yesterday morning and it resulted in doubts about non-violence.

"If the police don't scare us like they've been doing, everything will be all right," said a young man with an Indian headband.

## Volunteers

The lecture platform in a George Washington University courtyard was a shower-soaked patio. The lecturer was a raspy-voiced Southerner, wearing a white shirt, jeans and unlaced brown boots.

He called for volunteers to illustrate his lecture. A young man volunteered to play the role of a Washington policeman.

He was immediately equipped with a rolled up newspaper and proceeded to beat those acting the role of demonstrators. The demonstrators then jumped on the "policeman." The result was a melee.

"Now we'll do it the other way," the lecturer said. This time as the "policeman" beat the demonstrators, other protestors be-

gan throwing their bodies between the victim and the "policeman."

"See, Sister Pocohantas really had it together," the lecturer said.

"Sure, people are frustrated and ticked off," said Bob Lamb of Mayday Collective, the organizing arm for the latest peace offensive, but the tactics will remain unchanged.

## Protest on Media

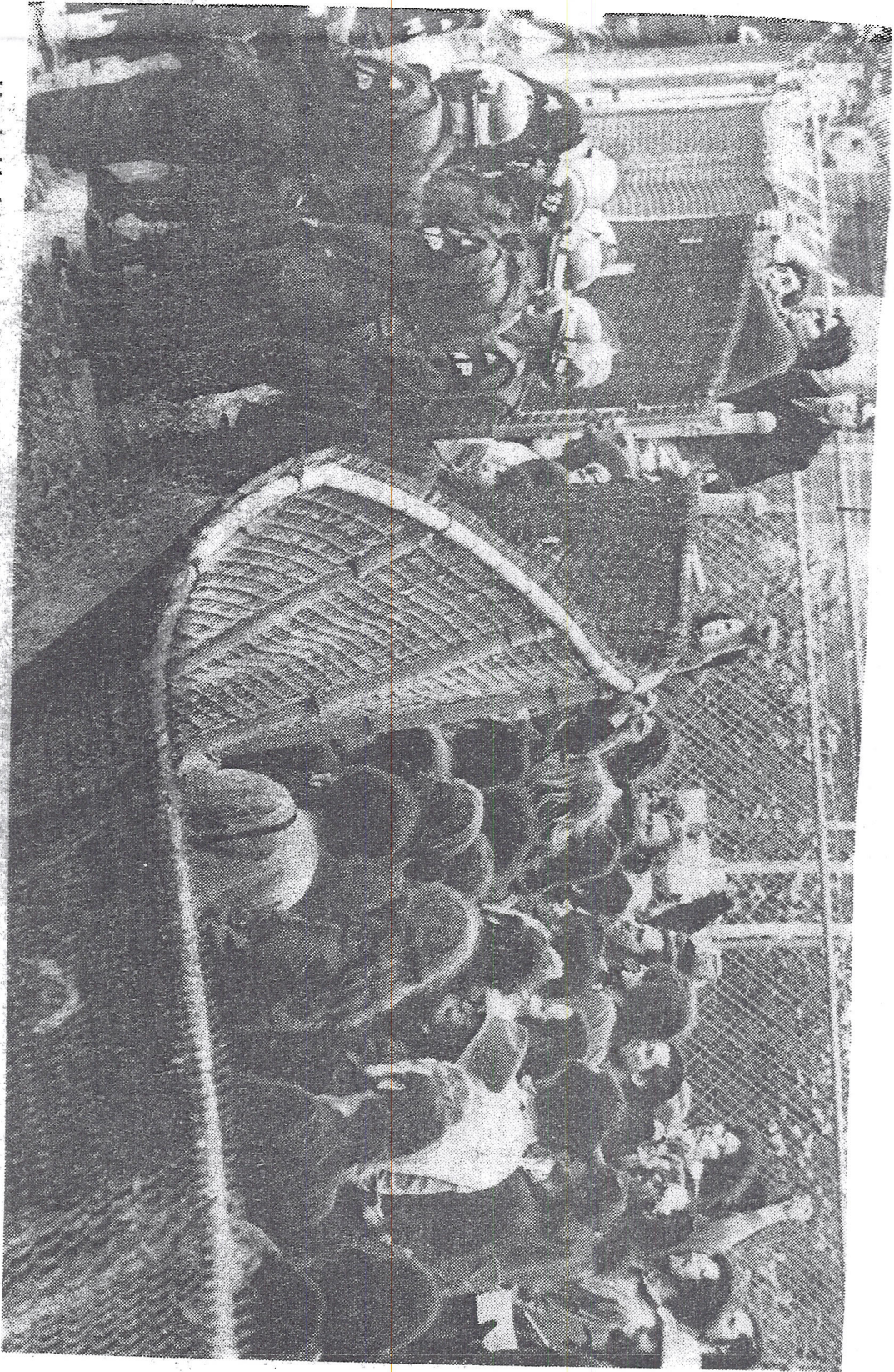
"Tactically, we are winning," Lamb said. "The media is full of anti-war protest. In Mapes, N.D., all they are getting is anti-war protest, a sense of continual turmoil and protest in the nation's capital. To them it isn't all that significant if we stop 50,000 cars or 2000 cars. The emphasis conveyed through the media is disruption."

A clean-shaven young man from Michigan said if non-violence doesn't work, others, more violence-prone would move to the fore.

"They've been laying back, not saying much," he said, "but they'll be ready."

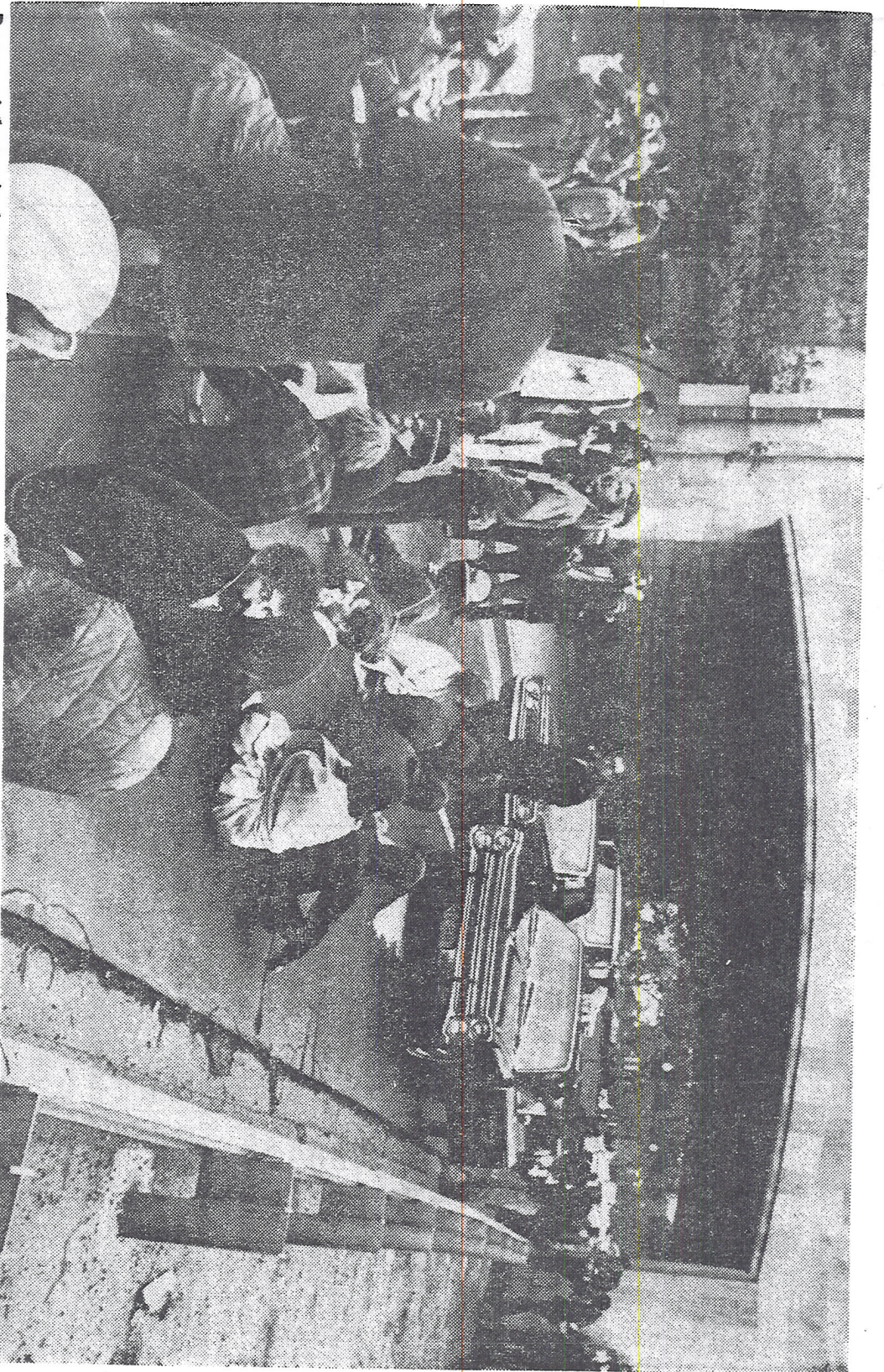
Lamb disagreed. "People who are for violence on every occasion are more pathological than political," he said. But, he added, "violence or non-violence will be determined in the final analysis by what the police do."

The government, he said, had already "created a certain amount of chaos" by evicting the demonstrators from West Potomac Park. "They are the creators of it, not us."



**Herded behind the fence of a football field, the arrested peace demonstrators try to push down the barrier**

—UPI Photo



**Peace pickets sit down in Washington's Maine Avenue in their efforts to halt functioning of the federal government**

—UPI photo

rage was fired near the Agriculture Department and employees who were exposed as they walked toward the building became victims, along with the demonstrators.

Some of the government workers vomited on the lawn surrounding the building. Others choked and gasped, tears streaming down their faces. They held handkerchiefs to their faces as they groped half-blinded to work.

Police advised those afflicted by the gas to "get to the restrooms quick and throw water on your eyes."

The police moved in swiftly and early to drive off the demonstrators and to keep traffic moving. By 9 a.m. a high percentage of workers were at their desks as usual.

Some of the unarrested remnants of the militant war opponents — operating as the May Day Tribe — turned to sporadic street vandalism such as the slashing of tires of autos parked or stopped at traffic lights. One of the victims of a punctured tire was Sen. Paul J. Fannin (R-Ariz.), who had been stopped by a group seeking to dissuade him from going to work.

A threat of trouble at Georgetown University dissolved when leaders of a group of about 1000 conferred with encircling police and both agreed to "cool it."

In the main shopping area of Georgetown — both a fashionable residential section and a hippie hangout — the situation was calmed by the presence of federal troops lining both sides of the street. They stood 10 feet apart with rifles slung over their shoulders.

Some of the troopers chatted amiably with passing long-haired street people and a few even flashed the V sign of the peace movement occasionally. But most of the soldiers were tight-lipped.

Wisps of tear gas hung in the air at some areas where major confrontations took place during the early hours of the morning.

#### Mitchell Announcement

But by 10 a.m., Attorney General John N. Mitchell issued a statement from the Justice Department declaring: "The city is open. The traffic is flowing. The government is functioning."

Police Chief Jerry Wilson predicted in advance that the traffic tie-up effort would be defeated. In a message on the police radio, he told his men: "The desire of the President is that this city be open."

Six helicopter loads of battle-garbed Marines were landed at the Washington Monument Grounds, ready for action if needed.

Tear gas fumes hung over the bridges across the Potomac, above some of the city's famed monuments and permeated the streets and grassy flowered park areas.

#### Dr. Spock

Police used a heavy barrage of tear gas to drive off the bridge a group of several hundred demonstrators led by Dr. Benjamin Spock — the noted baby doctor and well-known war dissenter.

Spock and his followers succeeded in choking off traffic on the span which bears the heaviest morning commuter load, for about seven minutes.

More prolonged confrontations occurred in the Georgetown sector.

Senate GOP Leader Hugh Scott (Pa.), declared at noon that the demonstration "failed — as it deserved to fail, as it was fated to fail."

"These nasties are achieving their purpose — they came here to get arrested and they are getting arrested," Scott said.

One Georgetown resident, clad in a business suit stood before his expensive home with a cocked, large bore rifle in his hands.

In the downtown area, where demonstrators blocked traffic, one driver got out of his car and growled: "Get out of the way or I'll run over you." The demonstrators moved.

Cars were reported damaged. Sirens screamed as police cars carrying officers in gas masks rushed from scene to scene amid the morning rush hour.