

# Gas, Clubs Rout Anti-War March

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — With Attorney General John Mitchell watching from his office balcony, police quickly broke up war protests outside the Justice Department today with a display of tear gas and billy clubs.

City officials estimated that 800 demonstrators were seized at the department and carried to jail in police buses, bringing to nearly 1500 the total of the day's arrests.

Some 3000 militant anti-war demonstrators, apparently abandoning another attempt to block Washington's

commuter traffic as hopeless rallied their forces in a park and marched eight blocks to the Justice Department.

They had been jammed on the Pennsylvania Avenue and 10th Street sides of the block-square building for three hours, chanting obscenities and demanding an end to the war, when the police moved in and an officer declared over a bullhorn:

"Clear this area immediately or you are subject to arrest."

About 2000 of the protesters left, leaving behind a knot

of about 1000 who sat down on the pavement, most of them under Mitchell's fifth-floor window, and refused to leave.

Police then executed a pincer movement, advancing on the protesters from Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues. At least one canister of tear gas was fired and a half-dozen or more officers swung their billy clubs, bloodying several youths.

But the violence was quickly over as police began arresting the demonstrators,

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photographing them and placing them in buses to be taken to jail.

#### Little Resistance

The protesters offered very little resistance.

As officers processed the demonstrators, others awaiting their turn to be arrested danced to jazz music played into the public address system and one girl demonstrator casually roller skated through the crowd.

Four FBI agents arrested John Froines, one of the Chicago Seven defendants. He was charged with conspiring with anti-war leader Rennie Davis to disrupt traffic in the nation's capital.

Police Chief Jerry Wilson accompanied protesters on a four-abreast march to the department building which also houses the FBI.

#### New Threats

There were new threats to "shut down the government."

Froines shouted over a loud-speaker:

"We cannot turn back from what we have come to do. We have come to shut down this government. We have to do it here in the streets . . . in order to intensify our struggle against the war."

The march halted when it

came to the doorway entrance with the sign: "Office of the Attorney General."

Atty. Gen. John Mitchell, ever-present pipe clenched in his teeth, appeared at his fifth floor office window from time to time to look down upon the crowd, which nearly filled the block outside the building.

Assistant Attorney General Robert Mardian, who is in charge of prosecuting the cases of such radicals as demonstration leader Rennie Davis, leaned out Mitchell's window and snapped photographs of the crowd.

The size of the crowd increased steadily as more and more of the record 7000 arrested during yesterday's disorders were released on bond. By noon, an estimated 1500 of the 7000 remained in jail — and had been joined by another 685 arrested during the morning.

#### Troops Withdraw

Meanwhile, the Pentagon began withdrawing 4000 federal troops from the streets and bridges of the capital.

Pentagon spokesman Jerry Friedheim told reporters that task force commanders have "begun to withdraw federal troops from the city" and expressed hope it was the "first step toward returning federal

troops to their normal duties."

The disengagement of troops still left thousands of police to watch warily over the city.

"We have a rendezvous with destiny in this city," Golden Faints, a staff member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference told the crowd.

Other speakers called for the immediate release of Black Panther Bobby Seale and other individuals.

Failure of a large-scale effort to tie up Washington traffic yesterday apparently discouraged the militant participants from pursuing the strategy today.

In yesterday's confrontation, they were outmaneuvered by police, tear gassed and maced, and most were arrested. Among them were Rennie Davis, one of the convicted Chicago Seven; Yippie leader Abby Hoffman and Dr. Benjamin Spock, noted baby doctor and anti-war advocate.

The leaders of the protest had declared they intended to make the city's numerous traffic circles their targets for disruption today.

About 400 turned up at Scott Circle shortly after 8 a.m. Police kept them broken up into small groups, but three were arrested — two

for disorderly conduct and one when he plopped down in front of a patrol wagon.

About 50 gathered at Washington Circle leading to the State Department but confined themselves to passing out peace leaflets.

The effort to "shut down the government" was squelched by 10,000 Army and Marine troops led by police. Tear gas and chemical spray turned back demonstrators in some cases before they could even reach the Potomac River bridges from suburban Virginia, and jeeps pushed aside cars abandoned to tie up city streets.

The largest single group of prisoners, about 2800, spent the night in the Washington Coliseum, an exhibition hall about 21 blocks north and east of the U.S. Capitol.

They had been moved to the coliseum earlier in the day from holding pens at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium and the central police station, and provided with Army blankets and C-rations.

Most were charged with disorderly conduct or with blocking a thoroughfare.

President Nixon returned to the White House from California at dusk yesterday and Police Chief Jerry Wilson said his men had succeeded in keeping the city "open for business" as the President had requested.