

The Busted Grandmother

Washington

Standing incongruously in the midst of nearly 1000 cheering anti-war demonstrators and wearing an Army field jacket and a red headband, Nanny Washburn yesterday told what it is like to be a 71-year-old revolutionary in the Washington protests.

"I spent my 71st birthday in the pigs' concentration camp Monday, and I want to tell you it was the greatest experience of my life," said Mrs. Washburn, an Atlanta, Ga., widow and a great-grandmother 13 times over.

The exuberant crowd roared its approval and broke into a chorus of "Happy Birthday" in the middle of what began as a "people's press conference" yesterday on the mall at the foot of the capitol.

SPEAKERS

Mrs. Washburn, grey-haired, spectacled and lined of face, was one of about 20 speakers who related their experiences in jail after Monday's mass arrests of more than 7000 demonstrators.



Mrs. Washburn raised her fist to the cheers

AP Wirephoto

Clutching a microphone in one hand and her voice slightly quavering, Mrs. Washburn said she was arrested at dawn Monday when she and hundreds of

other protesters attempted to snarl commuter traffic. "I lay down on the sidewalk with another brother and sister under this imperialist and Fascist government

... two pigs picked me up," she said, acknowledging with a clenched fist cheers and shouts of "Right on!"

VAN

Mrs. Washburn said she was locked in a police van and taken to the exercise yard of the D.C. jail, which she called the "Fascists' concentration camp."

"It was very cold and we slept out there . . . We were terrorized every 30 to 50 minutes, and they kept us awake all night."

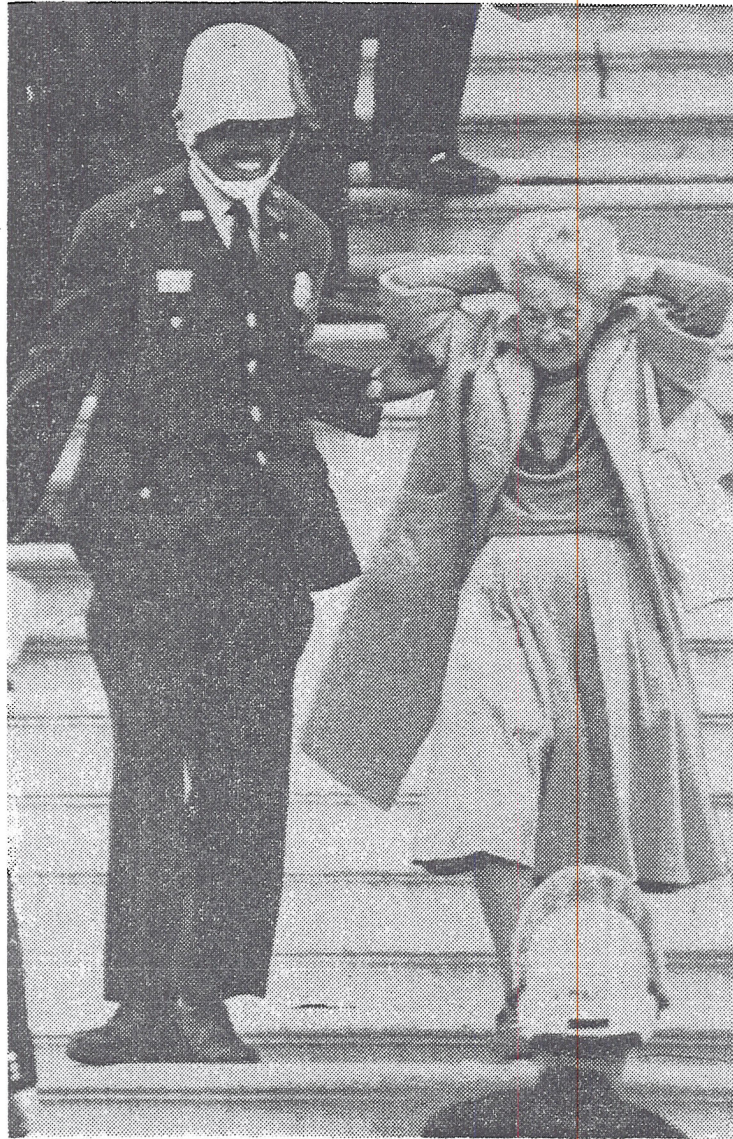
After remaining in custody until 4 t.m. Tuesday, Mrs. Washburn said, "I borrowed \$10 (Collateral) from three sweet sisters and got out."

"I got out of jail Tuesday, and I walked the block to see how the sentiment was of the people in the streets, including the pigs," Mrs. Washburn said.

"I went up to one pig, and said 'What's this (a demonstration) about?' He said, 'That's a demonstration and they plan to blow up the building.'"

To shouts of "power to the people" and another chorus of "Happy Birthday," Mrs. Washburn left the podium.

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UPI Telephoto

Another elderly woman, not identified, was arrested yesterday on the Capitol steps