

300 War Protesters Arrested

in Capital

Washington

Nearly 300 anti-war demonstrators were arrested in an abortive attempt to reach the gates of the White House yesterday amid unprecedented police preparations for mass arrest situations.

Following criticism of police procedures and 98 per cent court reversals of arrests made during last spring's Mayday disruptions here, police yesterday used a streamlined field arrest form and deployed hundreds of extra backup men throughout downtown. They conducted live televised surveillance of the protesters and rented a skating rink for possible mass detention of prisoners.

Organizers of the anti-war Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice had publicly predicted 10,000 protesters and told police in negotiations for permits last week to expect at least 5000.

About 700 showed up at Sylvan Theatre near the Washington Monument yesterday for a noon rally. At 4:30 p.m. about half the crowd marched up 15th Street toward the White House and were stopped by police at 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, one block east of the White House.

Scores of protesters — among them Chicago Seven defendant Rennie Davis and activist priest, Father James Groppi — sat down in the intersection causing a gigantic traffic tieup that continued for several hours with motorists' tempers growing short on the clogged streets.

Police on foot and on scooters surrounded the protesters. Each was taken into custody, photographed, charged with disorderly conduct on the new field arrest forms and placed in a detention bus.

The rally yesterday was focused on the Peoples Coalition "Evict Nixon in 1972" theme and on an elaborately staged trans-Atlantic telephone call to representatives of the North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front delegations at the Peace Talks in Paris.

With a specially installed white telephone hooked up to the Sylvan Theatre loud-

speaker system, the crowd heard Groppi and veteran anti-war activist David Dellinger speak for almost an hour to Nguyen Minh Vy, second ranking negotiator for the North Vietnamese, and Nguyen Van Tien, deputy chief of the NLF delegation.

Both urged their listeners to persuade the Nixon Administration to accept a seven-point peace proposal presented by the NLF last July in Paris.

The proposal calls for the United States to set a terminal date for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops along with a mutually agreeable ar-

angement for the simultaneous phased release of all prisoners of war.

The Nixon Administration says the proposal is still being studied. State Department officials have indicated many of its provisions are unacceptable.

The two Vietnamese dele-

gates, speaking through a translator, gave long, prepared statements praising the protesters and condemning American presence in Indochina. They then answered several questions submitted by participants in the crowd.

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