

# Police Halt Marchers, Arrest 300

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Nearly 300 antiwar 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 arrest procedures and blanked court reversals of most cases 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 even rented the Kalorama Skating Rink at 17th Street and Kalorama Road NW for possible mass detention of prisoners.

There was no need. Organizers of the antiwar 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 5,000.

About 700 showed up at Sylvan Theater 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 James Groppi—sat down in the intersection while police rerouted the afternoon rush-hour traffic along other 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.

Some of the male prisoners were taken to the Kalorama Skating Rink, while others went to the central cellblock

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at police headquarters. Women were sent to the third police district cellblock near 16th and V Streets NW, and juveniles were placed in a first district substation at 5th and E Streets SE.

Some 2,000 D.C. national guardsmen had been put on alert status yesterday and Monday. All police leaves and vacations were canceled. Another 2,000 federal troops also had been alerted Monday but the Pentagon canceled the alert that day.

City officials, including City Council Chairman Gilbert Hahn and almost the entire police department hierarchy, were present during the arrests.

A police helicopter whirred overhead, feeding live television film to the city's command center at 300 Indiana Ave. NW where Mayor Walter Washington and other officials watched.

For the first time, the city also issued a written "demonstration contingency plan" to coordinate enforcement services. The 53-page plan also set out provisions for first aid, water, toilets and psychiatric help for demonstrators.

The plan outlined arrangements for serving food to prisoners on a mass scale established city-federal government relations during a large-scale disturbance and set up an Emergency Legal Defense Corps of 100 lawyers to represent arrested demonstrators.

Yesterday's antiwar rally came after a similar one scheduled Monday at the Sylvan Theater was washed out by heavy rains.

The rally yesterday focused on the Peoples Coalition "evict Nixon" 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 Theater loud-speaker system, the crowd heard Groppi and veteran antiwar 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 1 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 arrangement for the simultaneous phased release of all prisoners of war.

The Nixon administration says the proposal is still officially under study, although State Department officials have indicated many of its provisions are unacceptable.

The two Vietnamese delegates, 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 rally.

Coalition spokesmen said the telephone arrangement, made by special contract with

Bell Telephone Co., cost about \$800.

Earlier in the rally, Groppi, Davis, comedian Dick Gregory and others addressed the crowd.

Davis said both the government and the press have systematically kept knowledge of the NLF peace proposal from the American people.

Groppi said, "Richard Nixon is a murderer, and we must vote in 1972 to get that madman out of the White House." The crowd, mostly young white movement followers and counter-culture street people, cheered lustily.

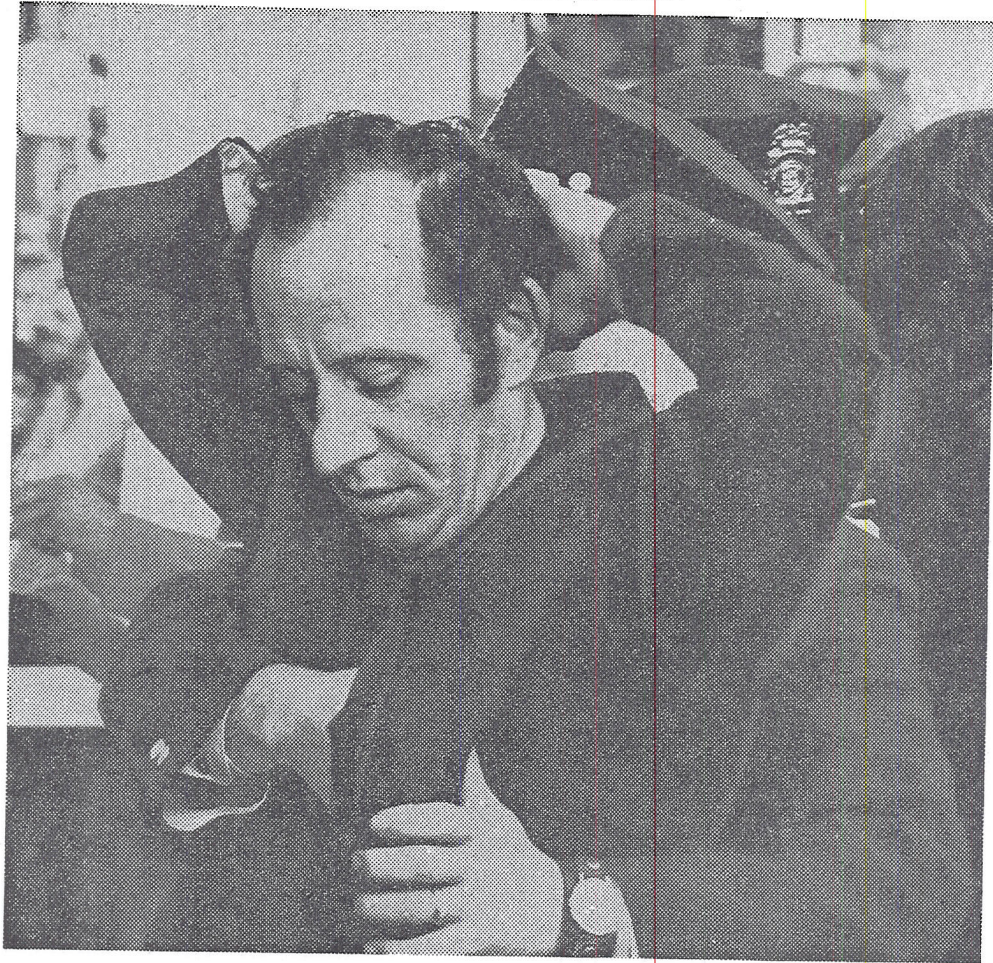
Alluding to the Mayday traffic disruptions here last spring, Gregory said, "If thousands of right-minded kids had gone into Berlin in the 1930s and tried to close that town down, this might be a very different world today."

After the Paris phone call Davis urged the crowd to march to the White House. He noted that police had denied them a permit for the action and thus participants should anticipate arrest. He urged them to avoid "disrupting the city or confronting the police."

He gave a three-pronged reason for going to the White House: to serve a symbolic eviction notice on President Nixon, to invite him to talk with the Vietnamese delegates on the telephone and to present him a giant cardboard key so that he could symbolically unlock the prisoner-of-war camps in North Vietnam by agreeing to the NLF peace proposal.

Most of the crowd then marched to Pennsylvania Avenue and their arrests.





Although organizers of the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice expected at least 5,000 protesters for their "evict Nixon" campaign yesterday, they drew a much smaller crowd. Some of the scenes during the day included, top left, the search and arrest of the Rev. James Groppi. Groppi, a militant priest from Milwaukee, earlier in the day declared that, "Richard Nixon is a murderer." At middle left demonstrators march up 15th Street prior to their sitdown at the Pennsylvania Ave-

nue intersection where they were later arrested. At bottom left, scooter policemen block the intersection, which is one block east of the White House. Above, Dick Gregory speaks to the crowd at Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds. Below is shown the television console at police headquarters by which Mayor Walter Washington and other officials kept track of the proceedings via helicopter transmission.

Photos by Charles Del Vecchio, Frank Johnston, Margaret Thomas and Linda Wheeler.

