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War Protest Attracts Few D.C. Students

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A scheduled antiwar student strike went largely ignored on area campuses yesterday as organizers continued preparations for what they say will be a mass antiwar march and rally at the Ellipse here Saturday.

Some 200 students met in a school-authorized rally at Wilson High School, Nebraska Avenue and Chesapeake Street NW, in an early morning drizzle. About half the crowd then marched to American University 10 blocks away for a noon rally and strike call, which drew a handful of AU students.

Wilson principal Maurice Jackson said absenteeism was near normal "for a rainy day"—8 to 9 per cent of the 1,600 students in the school—and the strike had little effect. Student organizers contend that large numbers stayed home.

Thirty-five students showed up for a noon rally at the University of Maryland. No activity was reported at Montgomery County high schools at which protest organizers had spoken earlier and distributed leaflets.

Organized primarily by the Washington affiliate of the National Peace Action Coalition, the Saturday program calls for two simultaneous lines of march, one starting from the Capitol, the other from Arlington Cemetery, with both converging at the Ellipse just south of the White House.

Scheduled speakers at the rally include SANE director Sanford Gottlieb, journalist I. F. Stone, and representatives of Federal Employees for Peace, Labor for Peace, the Angela Davis Defense Committee, National Welfare Rights Organization and others.

Assembly time for the marches is 11 a.m. with the rally to follow at 1 p.m. Plans call for Washington area participants to assemble on the west side of the Capitol at 1st Street. A labor contingent is to gather at the nearby Teamsters headquarters on New Jersey Avenue NW.

Veterans, active duty GIs and out-of-town participants are to assemble at Arlington National Cemetery near the Virginia approach to Memorial Bridge.