

25,000 at Kezar Anti-War Rally

By John Burks

It was neither the largest nor the smallest peace rally in the City's history, but it must have been the quietest.

About 25,000 were attracted to Kezar Stadium to hear:

- Black Panther leader Bobby Seale described "treatment of oppressed peoples" as a form of "people pollution," and declare: "The only solution for pollution is a peoples' humane revolution."

- A tape from Angela Davis, warning that the step-up in American bombing in North Vietnam "reveals what the U.S. government has in store for us — an escalation of police violence."

- Academy Award winning actress Jane Fonda endorse the rally on the ground that it reaches people in other nations:

"All over the world, North America is regarded as the common enemy, and these marches and demonstrations and rallies have a positive effect all around the world."

During her speech, the sound system — which had been chancy all along — failed.

Gregory Talks

The amassed demonstrators, basking in the Kezar sunshine, took it in stride. They seemed to take the whole affair in stride. It was

so restrained it seemed almost dispassionate.

Although the march and rally were peaceful, three persons were arrested as the demonstrators dispersed, two for allegedly assaulting a police officer, and one, in a separate incident, for possession of narcotics.

Big hit of the day was comedian-activist Dick Gregory, who says he has been fasting, eating nothing solid, since April 24, 1971. He stopped eating then "until the war ends."

He remains at least semi-confident. He told the throng: "I don't believe I'll have to come out here next year."

Then Gregory revealed his own peace plan. He called for a national boycott of chicken, which would bring the entire poultry industry over to the anti-war movement and begin to turn the tide.

Hongisto Speaks

Gregory pledged to stop eating entirely on April 24 unless the war is over. He'll not eat, he said, for 40 days, and will subsist on water alone. He's already looking just a shade better than emaciated.

New sheriff Richard Hon-

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gisto arrived about the time the speakers started, at 1 p.m., and declared himself well pleased with what he saw:

"Valid objections are being raised here. This country makes a terrible mistake when it attempts to show the world our ways are best by force or arms. This demonstration is an excellent exercise in the democratic spirit."

There was a phone hookup with North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris.

Their message took some time to unravel, but its essence was that American troops and airplanes and bombs should get out of Southeast Asia and never return.

To underscore this, some 14 Vietnamese young people mounted the stage under a

red banner. A few of them stepped up to the mike to sing an uncatchy little number about getting all the foreigners out of Vietnam and returning control to the people.

The turnout was about half the 50,000 the Bay Area April 22 Coalition had hoped for. The coalition includes a broad range of political groups from the most revolutionary to Sen. George McGovern's Democratic Party primary organization.

The event began with an extremely short march, from the corner of Baker and Fell streets at the tip of the Panhandle to Kezar, 15 blocks away, at the eastern edge of Golden Gate Park.

The marchers, estimated between 5000 and 8000, stretched along some 10 blocks on Haight Street, which had been dubbed

Only Three Arrests At Demonstration

Three persons were arrested and four others cited yesterday afternoon following an otherwise quiet and peaceful anti-war demonstration at Kezar Stadium.

The most serious incident occurred in front of park Emergency hospital on Stanyan St. next to the Kezar Pavilion when one of a truckload of youths allegedly tossed a beer can at a police car.

The squad car, which contained four members of the Crime Prevention Unit (Tactical Squad) pulled the truck over, and a scuffle ensued.

Arrested were Timothy C.

Garner, 21, a laborer, of 724 Fallon Ave., San Mateo, and Michael L. Powell, 22, a janitor, of 3264 Casa de Campa, San Mateo.

Garner was charged with battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, drunk and throwing a beer can. Powell was charged with battery and resisting arrest. Two other occupants of the truck were cited for interfering, and two others escaped on foot.

In a separate incident near Park Station, Steven B. Tomi, 19, was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics and possession of an illegal knife.

"Luv Street" for the occasion.

In a festive mood, the youngish demonstrators set up a whoop as they passed under a banner near the Straight Theater (itself decorated with a painted-on 10-by-15-foot Viet Cong flag) which read: "The Ho Chi Minh Trail to Freedom."

There were all sorts of banners damning Yankee Imperialism, plus the standard flowers, brass bands, babies, jugs of wine and all the other stuff you see at peace rallies.

Though it had been billed as a new departure in rallies — because of the presence of "educational" booths outside Kezar — it came off a lot like most of its predecessors.

As the rally entered its third hour, the speechifying began to seem interminable, as it always does.

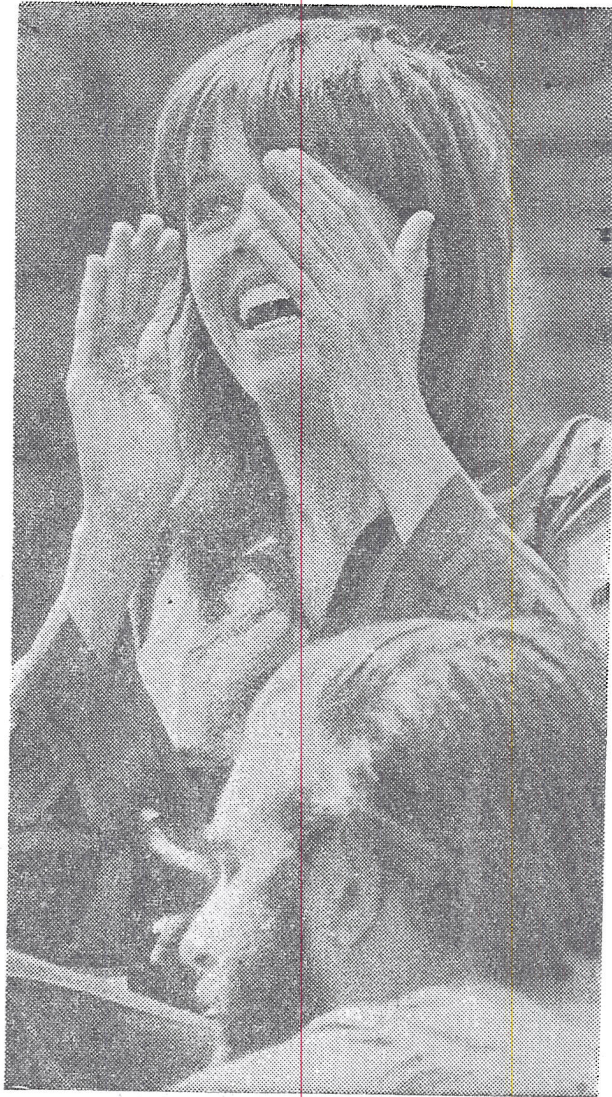
And most of the booths were dispensing printed matter which was, in fact, much like the speeches that were going on inside the stadium.

Just how familiar the whole scene has become was illustrated when Country Joe MacDonald, the anti-war rock and roller from the old Berkeley days, stood up to the microphone to sing "Fix-

in' to Die Rag," a song whose la-de-dah "we're all gonna die" refrain was startling several years ago when everybody was hearing it for

the first time.

Yesterday the crowd sang the whole song along with Joe line for line. It's become an old standby.



A POINT WELL TAKEN

Actress Jane Fonda happily applauds a Kezar rally speaker yesterday



Peace rally marchers filled Haight Street curb to curb as they neared Kezar

—Examiner photo by John Gorman