

APR 30 1972

'Out Now' Rally at Presidio

SF Examiner

Perhaps 200 demonstrators turned up yesterday afternoon at the main entrance to the Presidio for a National Peace Action Coalition rally to protest the Vietnam war.

Their theme was simple one: "Out Now" as proclaimed by the sign that led the march from the Center to the corner of Lombard and Lyon streets.

The march and rally were non-violent and unswerving, as promised by NPAC organizers. The police, already ready and waiting from the military base had nothing but spare time on their hands.

The most prominent speakers were veteran radical attorney Vincent Hallinan, presently a candidate for Superior Court judge, and Kay Boyle, the anti-war S.F. State College post-ess.

Noting the size of the rally (which filled less than one-third of one city block), Hallinan said some people think demonstrations have outlived their usefulness.

"It isn't true," he maintained. "It is important to let the peoples of the world know that the PEOPLE of the United States are not the inheritors of the Nazi Germany war instinct — the GOVERNMENT is!"

Noting that 13 South Vietnamese generals have been killed in the war, Hallinan got a big hand when he said: "A war where generals are killed can't be all bad."

Mrs. Boyle read part of a

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poem she's written about the "winter soldiers"—the boys who've come home from Vietnam to protest the killing there — which hoped America has reached "the place where America finally turned around with the help of our soliders."

Later, a Viet vet named Dave Rader stepped up to the microphone and asked the demonstrators to "dig what's really happening." With that, he rolled up the right pantleg of his jeans to show that he uses an artificial leg now.

"And I didn't even want to be there," said Rader.

A 9-year-old boy, Tony Starbuck, a student at Hawthorne School, read a speech that said: "Nixon is killing boys and girls who haven't done anything. So I say let's end the war and bring the troops home."

It was nowhere near as impressive a turnout as the rally last weekend which attracted 25,000 people to Kezar Stadium to hear Dick Gregory and Jane Fonda, among others, speak on behalf of the Bay Area April 22 Coalition.

But the NPAC organizers professed themselves to be well satisfied. "The point today," said Pete Verral, "is to keep the protest alive." NPAC held rallies in 24 cities coast to coast yesterday.