

NYTimes MAY 11 1972
Country's Street and Campus War Protests Increase

By LINDA CHARLTON

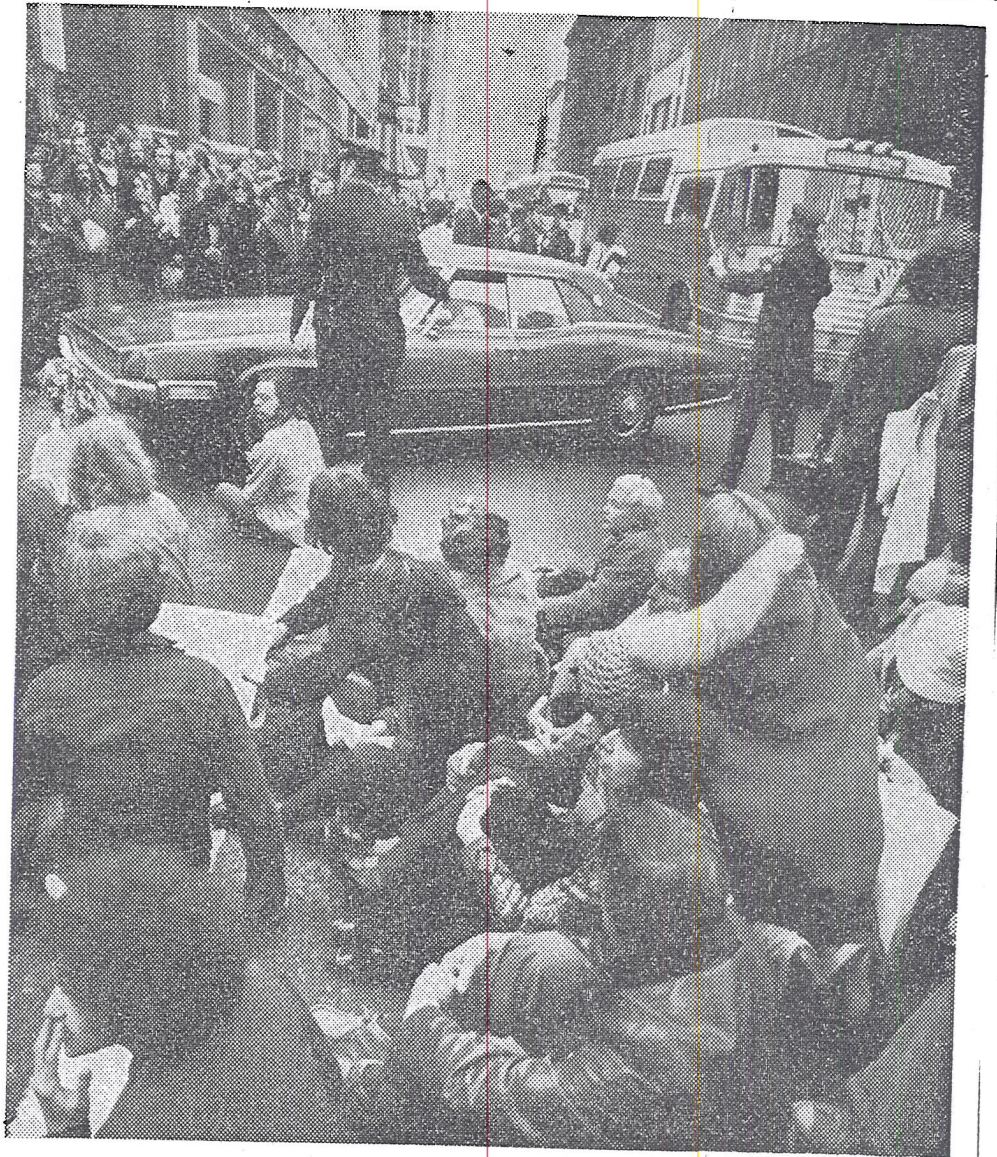
Protests mounted yesterday against President Nixon's new Vietnam actions, with demonstrations in city streets and on campuses across the country.

A late-afternoon demonstration here filled a Park Avenue block from curb to curb with perhaps 3,000 people and clogged traffic for more than an hour. It was the largest of several in demonstrations in the city during the day.

Others included a small noon-time vigil in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral at Fifth Avenue and 50th Street and a night march on Manhattan's West Side to Times Square.

The protests here and elsewhere followed a night of intensive street fighting between students and policemen in several cities, from Berkeley, Calif., to Gainesville, Fla. Hundreds were arrested in the disorders, which were the most turbulent since universities were closed in May, 1970, following the United States incursion in Cambodia.

The mass protest here took place on Park Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets, and started about 3:30 P.M. It had been called last week by a wide-ranging coalition of peace groups and given added impetus by the President's announcement Monday that North Vietnamese ports were being



Antiwar demonstrators sitting in the middle of 50th Street and Park Avenue yesterday as patrolmen diverted eastbound traffic on 50th Street to southbound lane of Park.

The New York Times/Michael Evans

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mined and railroad lines bombed.

The block was chosen because the 20-story building at 320 Park Avenue, on the west side of the avenue, houses offices of International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation. The concern was chosen, along with the "massive escalation of the air and ground war," as a target for the demonstration because of its "role in the Vietnam conflict," presumably as a supplier, either directly or through its subsidiaries, of military equipment.

The protest, in which at least four persons were arrested but no major confrontation between demonstrators and the police took place, was designed around a number of theatrical "simulations"—such as the dropping of miniature parachutes from a window in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

This was followed, to the accompaniment of the recorded sounds of air raids and firing, by a "simulated saturation bombing," after which more than 100 protesters stretched out, or at least sat down, in

the street, blocking traffic.

In front of the I. T. & T. building, pickets had been marching since about 3 P.M. with banners, placards and signs attacking the Administration or I. T. & T., or both. "Mined Harbors Mean Peace?" asked one. "For ITT, Nixon Risks WWII," another asserted.

Nonviolence Is Urged

Across the avenue, where demonstrators had filled the steps of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, a young man who identified himself only as "Philip A.D." was exhorting the crowd through a bullhorn to make this a "nonviolent action" and to wear an "End the Air War Button" if they wished to be arrested for sitting-in on the sidewalk in front of the I. T. & T. building.

The plan for mass, unopposed arrests was not realized, however, partly as the result of what appeared to be a police strategy of avoiding confrontation so far as possible and of allowing the protester's energies to dissipate.

This meant that the demonstrators, sitting and standing, closed off the block at both ends, forcing traffic to be diverted, from shortly after 5

P.M. until about 6:15. Then, their numbers dwindling, they moved off by a circuitous route toward Times Square, which they reached at 7:15.

The plan was to rendezvous there with the expected crowd from the West Side march, which was scheduled to start at 8 P.M. from Broadway and 106th Street.

The police did make an effort on the west, or downtown, side of Park Avenue to keep one lane open for cars. There was some angry scuffling as they did this and used four mounted policemen to clear the crowds. Several arrests took place—four were reported by early yesterday evening—and two of those arrested were taken to St. Vincent's Hospital. About a dozen observers from the bar association were in the crowd to note the conduct of both policemen and demonstrators.

Throughout, the police seemed to be carefully avoiding even the appearance of unnecessary force, at time holding the nightsticks above their heads with both hands. At least one person was hit on the head with a nightstick, however, and at least one other yanked by the hair.

By far the majority of the Park Avenue demonstrators were students. A group from Sarah Lawrence College staged one of several "guerrilla theater" performances, smearing bread and other food products of I.T.&T. subsidiaries with theatrical make-up "blood" and chanting a rhymed "history" of United States involvement in Vietnam—"1972 . . . what we gonna do . . . bomb the craters, bomb the holes, fill 'em up with empty souls . . ."

Liberation Front Flags

When the sun came out, there was a chant from one group of "Here comes the sun, the people of the world are picking up the gun."

There were a number of red, yellow and blue flags of the National Liberation Front in the crowd, and shouts of "Ho! Ho! Ho Chi Minh" and "Highway 1, Highway 1—take Saigon and Washington," as well as Peace—Now!

One of the older persons in the crowd was Beatrix Turner, 72 years old, who was wearing a veterans-for-peace overseas cap. She said she had been a sergeant in the Women's Army Corps in World War II. "I feel our country has never been in greater peril," she said.