

War Protesters Roam Capitol; Suit Seeks to Halt Port Mining

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WASHINGTON, May 11—Thronging the steps and roaming the halls of the Capitol, antiwar demonstrators protested and lobbied today for an end to the war.

More than 1,000 persons and 19 members of Congress gathered on the east steps at 6 A.M. to protest the mining of North Vietnamese ports.

"At this gray hour, half a world away, mines laid by American airplanes are now activated," said Allard K. Lowenstein, president of the Americans for Democratic Action, which sponsored the protest. Crowded on a wooden platform in front of the marble steps, four Senators and 15 Representatives spoke to the antiwar protesters.

"All of us must in this hour of crisis go to these halls of Congress and never relent until we bring this war to an end," said Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts.

Senator John V. Tunney, Democrat of California, was cheered as he said: "The time to end this war is now. Not some time in the distant future, but now."

The demonstrators left the Capitol grounds at 7 A.M., but many of them soon returned to lobby for Congressional approval of bills to cut off funds for the war. Throughout the day groups and individuals from all areas of the country strode through the corridors and crammed into the reception rooms of the Capitol and the five Congressional office buildings, urging support for end-the-war legislation.

Javits Meets Throng

"We had so many people at one point that we took over a committee hearing room for a half-hour so the Senator could talk with them," said Milton Friedman, press secretary to Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York.

Others joining in the 6 A.M. protest were Representatives Bella S. Abzug of Manhattan, Phillip Burton of California, Jonathan B. Bingham of the Bronx, Walter E. Fauntroy of the District of Columbia, Don Edwards of California, Abner J. Mikva of Illinois, Michael Harrington of Massachusetts, William F. Ryan of Manhattan, Robert F. Drinan of Massachusetts, James H. Scheuer of the Bronx, Edward I. Koch of Manhattan, Donald M. Fraser of Minnesota, Robert W. Kastenmeier of Wisconsin and John G. Dow of upstate New York, all Democrats.

Others speaking were Representative Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., Republican of California; Senator Alan Cranston, Democrat of

California, and Senator Harold E. Hughes, Democrat of Iowa, New York.

Senator William B. Saxbe, Republican of Ohio, met with more than 30 persons lobbying for antiwar bills. He had a two-hour meeting with four students from Kent State University.

The Kent State students were part of a group of more than 100 here from that university, the site of demonstrations in which four students were killed by national guardsmen in May, 1970. The Ohio students joined in an ad hoc hearing called by Donald M. Fraser, Democrat of Minnesota, who is chairman of a House foreign affairs subcommittee, to voice their protests about the escalation of the war and speak about what action they could take. Ten Representatives attended.

The east steps were again crowded at noon, but with persons supporting President Nixon's policies. Senator Robert Dole, Republican of Kansas, and Senator James L. Buckley, Republican-Conservative of New York, were among several speakers who urged the crowd of more than 500 to continue their backing of the Administration.

Antiwar Suit Filed

The Administration's policies in Vietnam were challenged in Federal court today, however, as two Senators and 19 Representatives filed for an injunction to stop the President and other top Administration officials from carrying out mining of North Vietnamese harbors.

Senator Fred R. Harris, Democrat of Oklahoma, was joined by four other plaintiffs on the east steps in announcing the action. "We must now ask the courts to force the President to respect the law of the land," he said.

More than 50 members of Women Strike for Peace met with House Speaker Carl Albert, Democrat of Oklahoma, this afternoon and about 15 of them staged a peaceful sit-in outside his office following the 15 minute session.

About 20 members of the Quaker Action Group of Philadelphia, many dressed in Sackcloth, sat at the side of the main rotunda, after presenting four Congressmen with a petition calling for an end to the war.

At 3:30 Charles Cassell, a member of the District of Columbia school board, stood on the east steps to announce plans for civil disobedience at the capitol on May 18. He also called for a blockade of the Pentagon and the capitol on Monday, May 22.