

120 War Protesters Are Seized Over Sit-In at Capitol's Rotunda

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WASHINGTON, May 16 — With the sounds of antiwar and religious songs echoing through the Rotunda, about 120 persons were arrested here today when they refused to end a sit-in in the Capitol.

Those arrested were from Clergy and Laymen Concerned and included several priests and nuns.

William Sloane Coffin, chaplain of Yale University, and Dr. Benjamin Spock, pediatrician and antiwar activist, also were among those arrested.

More than 500 persons have come to Washington for what Mr. Coffin described as "a persistent presence on Capitol Hill." Members of the group plan lobbying activities, as well as other demonstrations, in the next few days.

The sit-in in the Rotunda began just before 3 P.M., after members of the group had met with various members of Congress. One small group was evicted from the Senate galleries when they shouted "end the war" during the session.

The demonstration lasted nearly three hours, during which the antiwar protesters prayed, sang religious and peace songs and listened to speeches. When Capitol Police Chief James M. Powell told them they were under arrest, they continued singing.

Virtually all cooperated with the arresting officers. They were booked on charges of unlawful entry.

New Actions Planned

The Capitol sit-in was the only major demonstration here today. Lobbying for antiwar legislation continued to increase, however, and several groups announced plans for actions.

A group of about 80 students and faculty from the University of Pennsylvania and about 70 from Johns Hopkins University met with members of congress. The national student lobby, one of the groups coordinating the lobbying efforts, said more colleges were expected to send delegations in the next few days.

Leaders of several labor unions announced details this afternoon of a convention set for late June in St. Louis to organize Labor for Peace, a new antiwar group. The labor leaders, including officials of the United Auto Workers, the Teamsters, and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, said they expect 1,000 delegates at the organizing convention.

Leaders of the antiwar March planned for this Sunday said this morning that negotiations for permits for the demonstration were proceeding smoothly.

The march, sponsored by the National Peace Action Coalition and the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, is expected to start at noon at the Ellipse and then go down Pennsylvania Avenue to a rally at the Capitol.

Sidney Peck, one of the march organizers, said he expected "tens of thousands" for the antiwar protest. The demonstration has been endorsed by a number of groups, including the Americans for Democratic Action and Clergy and Laymen Concerned. In addition, three Democratic Senators, Mike Gravel of Alaska, Philip A. Hart of Michigan and Vance Hartke of Indiana, have endorsed the march.

Nine members of the House have endorsed the march. They are: Bella S. Abzug of Manhattan, William F. Ryan of Manhattan, Shirley Chisholm of Brooklyn, Herman Badillo of the Bronx, Charles B. Rangel of Manhattan, James J. Scheuer of the Bronx, John Conyers Jr., of Michigan, and Abner J. Mikva of Illinois, all Democrats, as well as Donald W. Riegle Jr., Republican of Michigan.

95 Seized at Westover

WESTOVER, Mass., May 16 (UPI)—Ninety-five antiwar protesters, most of them students from nearby colleges, were arrested today on charges of disturbing the peace while blocking two gates at Westover Air Force base.

It was the 17th nonviolent demonstration at the base since April 21. More than 1,200 persons — mostly college students and faculty members — have been arrested to date.

Most of the demonstrators in the western Massachusetts city have come from what is known as the "five college area" comprised of Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, University of Massachusetts, Amherst College and Hampshire College.

Protests at Seminary Here

About 15 students from União Theological Seminary staged a sit-in in the offices of the Episcopal Military Bishop yesterday at the Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue.

Bishop Roger Blanchard, executive vice president of the church, and a student agreed that the demonstration was a "witness" in support of two proposals—a re-examination of Episcopal investment policies, and a change that would put chaplains in the armed forces under civilian rather than military control.

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