

60 Arrested In Protest at White House

By Megan Rosenfeld
Washington Post Staff Writer

On the eve of the official halt to U.S. bombing in Cambodia, 60 persons were arrested yesterday after an impromptu religious ceremony at the White House culminated five weeks of war protests.

The group included the Rev. Daniel Berrigan S.J. and his brother, Jerome, and brought to 158 the number of people arrested at the White House since July 6 for protesting the bombing. Previously, the numbers of those arrested had varied from two to five each day.

Many of the protesters yesterday said that while they hoped the bombing halt would be realized, they didn't really believe it would. Ranging from teenagers to middle-agers and wearing a variety of clothing from cut-off jeans to demure dresses and slacks, they all came to decry what they called "murders" and to "save the children."

Yesterday's arrests were made from two groups. The first group, numbering about 20, walked to Washington from Baltimore, then took the regular White House tour, singing the Lord's Prayer as they went. Three of this group were arrested after halting a line of tourists to read a statement denouncing the bombing.

The larger group, sponsored by the Community for Creative Non-Violence, num-

See PROTEST, A15, Col. 1

PROTEST, From A1

bered over 80, of whom 57 were arrested. They joined a half-mile line of tourists shortly after 10 a.m.

"I just got off parole and I came because I couldn't let Nixon go on committing murders," Father Berrigan said as he joined the line. He was greeted with hugs and kisses by many members of the group.

His less well-known brother Jerome, an English teacher at a community college in Syracuse, N.Y., said that he felt the praying protests "deepen and widen public awareness."

Linda Soltis, 23, a key-punch operator from Akron, Ohio, said she drove here with two friends to come to the demonstration.

"I wouldn't say I'm religious in the usual way," she said while waiting in line. "I don't belong to a church. I don't know if I'll be arrested, but I will if I have to." She said.

As the group entered the east entrance, singing "We Shall Overcome," Executive Protective Service police closed the gates to other tourists for about half an hour. One seven-member family, the Robert Bunts from Glen Cove, L.I., who were directly behind the group of protesters, left, saying they would come back another day and that the White House was no place for protests.

After walking up the steps toward the east entrance, the group sat down and began reciting the Lord's Prayer. Outside the gate tourists with cameras vied with news photographers for shooting angles, and 10 protest supporters

knelt and joined the prayer.

An hour after the last prayer-protesters had been taken to third district police headquarters, a group of about 175 persons from five states, carrying banners and signs, began a demonstration in front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue.

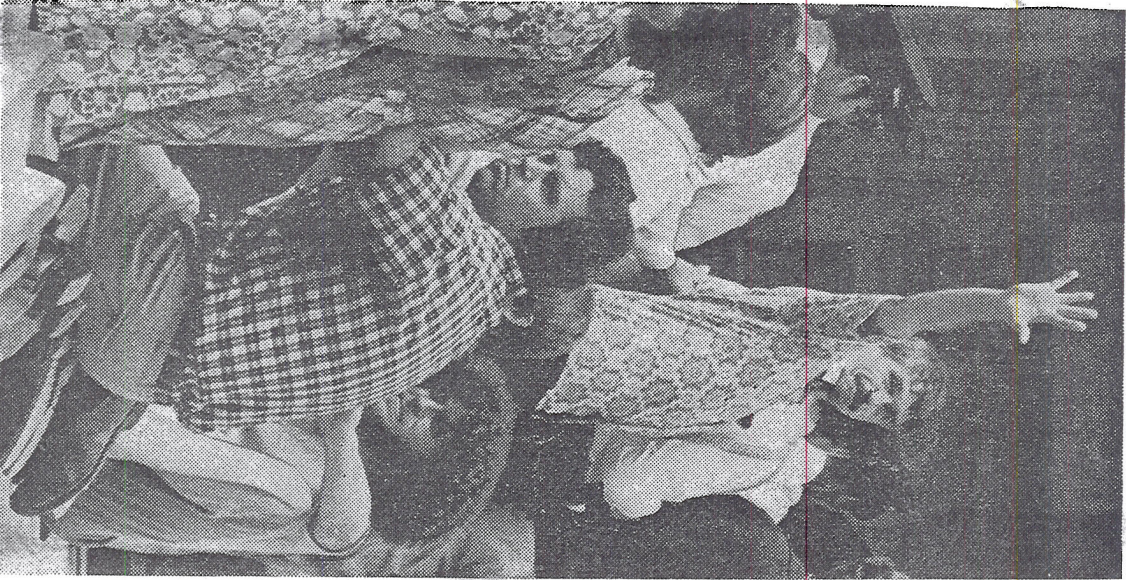
Led by members of Women's Strike for Peace, the group held a sidewalk press conference, in which they said they didn't believe the bombing would end in Cambodia, and announced a nationwide campaign to organize support for a resolution to impeach President Nixon.

These demonstrators were mostly women. One of them was Ray Kay, 75, of Northwest Washington, wore a sign and said she had been protesting war for 30 years.

"When it comes to protesting the war, I'm young all over," she said as she joined the line.

Those arrested yesterday were charged with unlawful entry and taken directly to D.C. Superior Court from third district headquarters, where they were arraigned before Judge Paul D. McArdle. All were released on personal recognizance after a trial date of Sept. 27 was set.

Of the 158 arrests since July 6, five persons have been acquitted and three convicted of unlawful entry. Judge Charles W. Halleck refused to sentence six others; the remaining cases are pending.



By Charles Del Vecchio—The Washington Post
While being placed under arrest, the Rev. Daniel Berrigan, S.J., waves to friend outside the fence.

