

Radicals Say Nixon Exaggerates Violence in Incident at San Jose

By STEVEN V. ROBERTS NOV 2 1970

Special to The New York Times

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov. 1—The young radicals who planned the demonstration against President Nixon here last Thursday feel that the President has exaggerated what happened that night for his own political advantage.

They also seem pleased that it happened, gratified by the

attention it has brought them and suspicious of the security arrangements that made it possible for a hostile crowd to get close enough to the President for a confrontation to occur.

After Mr. Nixon emerged from a political rally, his motorcade was pelted with stones, eggs and other objects from a crowd of more than 1,000 persons. Since then, the President has attacked the demonstrators as "thugs" and has told voters in several speeches to "draw the line" against violence by voting for Republicans on Tuesday.

"He's blown it up to sound like a war or the Watts riot," one girl said. "It wasn't like that at all."

Another young radical added, "There just wasn't that much violence, but the media played it up. We've all been in much worse demonstrations than that, much worse."

"It's clear what he's doing politically," said a red-haired young man in a blue workshirt. "He's trying to put fear into people; he's trying to drive them to the right. I watched him on television the other night and it was like watching old movies of Hitler."

Most of these young people are members of the San Jose Liberation Front, a loose-knit coalition of radical groups that joined several other organizations in planning Thursday's demonstration. About a dozen of the radicals live together in two old houses near San Jose State College, where many of them are or have been students.

They talked to a visitor in a shabby living room adorned with posters extolling Che Guevara, the Al Fatah and Mao Tse-tung. While they were upset at the way President Nixon had used the incident, many of them seemed also rather pleased.

They consider themselves revolutionaries. They do not believe in nonviolence and they seemed delighted that people

were angry enough to throw things at the President. They also enjoyed their sudden notoriety.

"It's good to be attacked by the enemy," said a red-haired youth. "The radical movement would die in this country if they didn't give us so much attention."

The demonstration was supposed to have been peaceful so that it would attract such people as unemployed engineers and present a "united front" against the war, according to Dan O'Neal, one of the organizers. Leaflets and briefings stressed the nonviolence and unity theme.

Some youngsters think the crowd was swept by a "surge of anger" when they saw Mr. Nixon emerge from the auditorium, and that he aggravated the hostility by standing on his car and making his familiar "V" sign with both hands.

Others contend that the police "formed a flying wedge and knocked people over" in trying to clear a path for the President, and that this set things off.

Many of the youths were surprised at how close they could get to the President and his motorcade.