

Rider in POW Protest

There were two new visitors at City Hall today ready for a word of welcome and a friendly slap on the back from Mayor Alioto: two horses all the way from St. Joseph, Missouri.

One horse had a rider, but there was only a saddle for the second — his symbolic rider was a prisoner of war still languishing in North Vietnam.

The horses are being ridden from Missouri to San Diego to publicize the cause of the forgotten prisoners of war, and to try to pressure Hanoi into providing more facts about the prisoners.

"You're doing a wonderful thing," the Mayor told rider Tom Mason, "you should inspire a good deal of activity from all Americans."

As soon as the ceremony was over, the horses were put back in their traveling van and taken to their next port of call. Rider Richard Hill explained "we rode them most of the way through states like Wyoming, but California is too congested."

There were seven wives of



SYMBOLIC EMPTY SADDLE . . . READY FOR POW

Mayor Alioto hands letters to rider Tom Mason as POW wives watch ceremony

—Examiner Photo

prisoners of war present for today's protest as well as Joe McCain, an official with Concern for Prisoners of War, Inc.

It soon developed that while everybody wants the prisoners home, the way to get them home sometimes differs. Thus McCain, who has a brother captured in North Vietnam, was soon in bitter argument with most of the wives over whether the

President should be blamed for the fact that the prisoners are still being captive.

But everyone at the ceremony, from the Mayor to the riders, to the wives, could at least agree that they wanted to see the prisoners come home fast.