

# POW Relatives Jeer at Peace Leaders' Names

## Washington

Many members of the nation's largest group of relatives of prisoners of war hooted and booed yesterday at mention of antiwar leaders who recently escorted three POWs back from Hanoi.

The shouts of derision came several times during the third convention of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia after speakers addressing the group referred to Cora Weiss, David Dellinger and others who helped arrange release of the three flyers last month.

'Most of them (peace movement leaders) are much more concerned to see Hanoi's objectives fulfilled — not your's,' charged Robert F. Turner, a Vietnam veteran and researcher at the Hoover Institute on War, Revolution and Peace. His accusation was greeted with loud applause and shouts of agreement.

At another point, a gray-haired mother of a POW rose to speak kindly of Mrs. Weiss. She was silenced by boos and shouts of 'sit down.'

One of the three pilots brought back by the antiwar

leaders—Navy Lieutenant Mark L. Gartley—was invited to speak to the organization yesterday behind closed doors. Scheduled to join him at the private session were Army Sergeant Major Daniel Pitzer, a former prisoner of the Viet Cong, and Douglas Hegdahl, a former seaman released by Hanoi in 1969.

The league claims 2900 members—mothers, fathers, wives and other relatives of the 1800 United States servicemen listed as prisoners of war or missing in Southeast Asia. About 750 members were on hand for the convention, many arriving on government-supplied transport.

The organization generally has been supportive of the Nixon administration. But it voted at the last meeting in May to label the Vietnami-

zation program a failure as far as it concerned freedom for the POW's.

A battle between hawks and doves was expected today and tomorrow when the convention begins voting on various resolutions. If yesterday's action was any indicator, the hawks appear to be in the majority.

For example, members applauded one suggestion that the league refuse to let Mrs. Weiss' group handle mail exchanges with the POW's, even if that meant the families received no mail at all. *United Press*