

Peace Group Says It Was Duped Into Protest [26 Sep 72]

by Paul W. Valentine

Antiwar veterans who attempted to heckle President Nixon at a Statue of Liberty "ethnic" ceremony last fall and were howled down by hundreds of Nixon partisans, say they were tricked into the incident by accepting an anonymous package of 50 invitations to the ceremony.

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With national television cameras recording the scene, President Nixon interrupted his prepared speech to note: "I would only hope that tonight the TV screens will not show these six (demonstrators being escorted away) instead of the thousands here."

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"They were trying to discredit the antiwar movement and the McGovern campaign," said a VVAW worker who gave her name as Coca Crystal.

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"Whoever it was - CREEP or the White House or somebody else - they are the provocateurs of a lot of violence at demonstrations," said Joe Hirsh, coordinator for the southern New York area VVAW.

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... No formal arrests were made.

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