

Protesters March on Watergate

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Protesters, their number estimated at between 500 and 1000 strong, marched through the capital yesterday in what was intended to be the first major anti-Administration demonstration by leftist groups since President Nixon's second inauguration.

Sponsored by the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice, the march was billed as a protest against cuts in domestic social spending and the bombing of Cambodia. But the title was "March from Watergate to Justice" and the speakers concentrated on the bugging scandal.

The march began directly across the street from the Watergate offices where the notorious break-in occurred a year ago. It ended at the Justice Department building, about a mile away.

Anthony Russo, a former defendant in the Pentagon Papers Case, told the crowd that recent disclosures indicate the President's reelection committee resorted to illegal activities because of pressure from anti-war activists.

"We now know how uptight they were about us," Russo said. "We had no money, no guns, but we have soul power . . ."

Most of the marchers wore buttons saying "Impeach Nixon" and many of their banners carried the same message. One banner, carried by representatives of the American Communist party, said "Welcome Brezhnev."

At a stop near the White House, comedian Dick Gregory said the scandal "goes beyond Dick Nixon . . . to the sick, slimy CIA that won't be satisfied until they overthrow this country."

"A year ago," he said, "if I stood on this stage and said that in one year John Mitchell would be on his way to jail and Bobby Seale would be running for Mayor of Oakland, you all would have thought I was crazy."

Attorney Arthur Kinoy, a long-time defender of radical causes, described the march as "the beginning of the people's intervention into one of the most serious crises in the history of this country."

"The lesson of Watergate is that the rulers of this country are corrupt," he said, charging the Administration "had set into motion a model that was an experiment in an American form of Facism."