

# WATERGATE

## Impeach Nixon rally outburst of derision

By Stephen Cook

Some 1000 persons gathered in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza yesterday for a remarkable public display of contempt, hatred and derision for the President of the United States.

It was The City's first Impeach Richard Nixon Rally, an event which received relatively little advance notice.

In Sacramento yesterday, a similar rally drew 300 persons, mostly of college age, to the West Capitol steps, where security officers photographed the demonstrators for "intelligence" purposes.

The San Francisco participants were a cross section of

those Bay Area people who pursue causes. The speakers were against Nixon — and against Chilean generals, Central Valley growers, prison administrators and others.

For entertainment, there was a street actor whose close but gross impersonation of the President began with the two-handed victory sign and a sincere, "My fellow suspects."

To the cheers of the crowd, he was driven from the stage with an impeach-mint pie in the face.

A young man and woman, billed as the Alger Hiss Memorial Juggling Brigade, opened the show with balance and precision acts in-

terrupted with such frequent one-liners as:

"Nixon is the only paranoid whose fears are completely justified," and, "The motto of the Republican Party used to be 'Four More Years' but now it's 'Five to Life.'"

Bumper stickers reading "Impeach Nixon" and "Honk if You Think He's Guilty" were selling for 50 cents each, or as much as one could afford.

One man was hawking Swissy Mouse balloons — a balloon with a mouse balloon inside — and American flags.

"Get your impeachment balloons here," he said.

Henry the Fiddler, with an "Impeach Nixon" bumper sticker on his violin case, played a bluesy, off key rendition of the National Anthem as he strolled through the crowd.

On all picket signs, the "X" in Nixon was formed as a swastika.

"Gays say: Nix Nixon," said one.

People on the stage announced the rally had been organized "by a very ad hoc committee" and there began a parade of speakers representing various movements.

Backstage, Congressman Phillip Burton (D-SF) shook hands and answered several times that he believes there is a very good chance the President will actually be impeached.

"Impeachment depends on whether public opinion abates or not," he said.

Mail now is running about 300-1 in liberal areas and 10-1 in conservative zones for impeachment, he said.



Demonstrator mimics the President at Civic Center

Burton termed the President's offer to name another special prosecutor "pure hogwash" and promised:

"Whether Nixon likes it or not, Congress is going to pass a law that will have Judge Sirica appoint a special prosecutor. If he vetoes it, we're going to override his veto."

Congressman Ron Delums (D-Berkeley) delivered the keynote address, the speech that brought the people to their feet with cheers and applause.

"Richard Nixon is an unfit person to be the chief executive of this country," Delums said. "It is dangerous for him to stay in office."

In Sacramento, those at the rally promised they will

go trick-or-treating in Sacramento and Davis areas with impeachment petitions Wednesday night.