Impeachment demonstrators evicted from Lady Liberty



Protestors march from Statue of Liberty after eviction

United Press International

NEW YORK — The Statue of Liberty, a symbol of the American dream for generations of immigrants, yesterday again became a vehicle of protest for demonstrators claiming that the dream has been shattered by political reality.

This time it was a group of about 20 anti-Nixon students who barricaded themselves inside the monument to dramatize their support for the impeachment of President Nixon and to protest "social injustice."

"We feel proud of what we did," one demonstrator said upon being evicted last night by U.S. Park Police. "We will not sneak off in the middle of the night like a gang of thieves like Nixon and his friends."

In January, 1972, a group of 40 Vietnam veterans occupied the monument of Liberty Island in an antiwar protest. In July of the same year, 14 members of an anti-Castro group hand-cuffed themselves to iron railings inside the building to dramatize alleged mistreatment of political prisoners in Cuba.

No one was arrested or injured in the latest incident.

It began at 5 p.m. Friday when demonstrators who said they were members of a leftist student organization, the Attica Brigade, barricaded themselves in the base of the monument at the close of visiting hours.