

An Orderly Law Crowd

Supreme Court Debate

Washington

There is a feeling of order and dignity in the marble halls of the U.S. Supreme Court Building, and it seemed to spill over yesterday onto the marble plaza outside where the crowd waited.

About 200 people had been there through the night to win a seat in the courtroom at yesterday's historic debate — the courtroom climax, it seemed, of the two-year-old Watergate affair.

It was a well-organized crowd and ranged from college students to the wife of an Oklahoma representative. They issued their own tickets, made arrangements with the police to have the tickets honored, held roll-calls during the night and stood respectfully in lines without ropes or threats or squads of police officers.

By 9:30 a.m., when the first black limousines began to arrive with lawyers and some members of Congress, the crowd had grown to 400.

There was applause, mixed with a few boos, when President Nixon's lawyer, James D. St. Clair, arrived.

He walked up the marble steps to the building with his wife and two associates.



AP Wirephoto

Spectators made an orderly entrance into Supreme Court Building

Stopping to sign an autograph, he was caught up by a crowd of reporters and spectators that seemed to melt away as special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski arrived.

The applause and cheers this time were long and loud.

"Save the Constitution," someone shouted, and there were a few other cries: "let's go, Leon" and "Go get 'em."

Jaworski's family was with him and he went inside without stopping for autographs.

There are 423 seats in the courtroom, and the plan for the session had been to provide 120 for the general public. This was later increased to 136, generating shouts of joy. These were on a first-come, first-served basis.

Twenty-seven seats were set aside for five-minute glimpses of the court by

anyone else in the lines.

The rest of the seats went to lawyers, members of Congress and newsmen.

Olivia Jones, the wife of Representative Jameo R. Jones (Dem.-Okla.) arrived at the Supreme Court building at 8:30 Sunday night and was eventually a cheering no. 135 in line.

She and others waited all night without sleep.

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