



Making His Point

An antiwar protester heaves his medals over a fence in front of the Capitol Friday as part of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War demonstration. The veterans are wind-

ing up a week of demonstrations against the fighting in Indochina by discarding their combat medals on the steps of the Capitol (UPI).

War Protesters Mass For Washington Rally

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over 700 Vietnam veterans who turned in their combat medals Friday will join tens of thousands of other protestors today and march through the streets of Washington in opposition to U.S. policy in Indochina.

The sponsoring National Peace Action Coalition says the activities will be peaceful. So does District of Columbia Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson. But Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell said Friday "a substantial possibility exists" that violence will break out during the weekend and throughout the next week.

And the Pentagon announced federal troops have been alerted for possible duty here at the Justice Department's request.

Aides to Mitchell said the attorney general later told them he did not include today's rally among events at which he expected violent confrontations.

"The attorney general said he expects today to be peaceful" said the aide.

The veterans, who have been conducting nonviolent demonstrations here all week, and the other contingents of peace groups, housewives, hippies, women's liberationists and others will again make it clear to-

mediate U.S. military withdrawal from Vietnam. Beginning about noon from a staging area near the White House which President Nixon has vacated for the weekend, the protestors will parade 16 blocks up Pennsylvania Avenue to the U.S. Capitol for a rally that will include addresses by members of Congress and peace activists.

A rock concert that will follow the rally on the Washington monument grounds is expected to run well into the night.

The massive rally, one of dozens of varying sizes in this town over the past four years, signals the end of a week of antiwar activities here by the over-1,000 veterans who camped out on the Capital Mall. And it kicks off a two-week spring "peace offensive" by a more radical group of anti-war dissidents who claim they are also lobbying for various social domestic causes.

That group, the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, says it will take nonviolent steps to shut down the government in order to make its points.

The veterans lobbied congressmen, staged guerrilla thea-

tre on busy downtown streets and staged a sit-in on the steps of the Supreme Court Thursday when 108 of them were arrested. Friday, they were all acquitted of disorderly conduct charges.

They brought their separate anti-war activities to a close Friday when they tossed away their ribbons and medals earned in Vietnam, calling them "symbols of shame," in a demonstration on the Capitol steps.

Today they will join the thousands of others who began arriving here en masse Friday for antiwar demonstration. Compared to Revival

In a setting one observer likened to an old fashioned revival meeting, dozens of the veterans stood on the Capitol steps before a crowd of about 3,500 and told how they had once been proud to wear their medals but had come to change their minds about American participation in the war.

"Stripped of the hopes we See Protesters, Page 12, Col. 5

Protesters Mass For Capital Rally

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once had in our government, we now strip ourselves of these medals," one veteran said. Also among them was a middle aged man who threw in his Veterans of Foreign Wars membership card and a World War I veteran who discarded a Victory Medal.

Friday afternoon the veterans officially broke camp on the mall. The National Park Service planted a 15-foot American elm tree at the site in memory of the week's activities. A Park Service official said the \$75 for the tree came from veterans' donations.

The White House and Capitol are being closed to the public today in anticipation of huge crowds, traffic jams—and possible violence—near both structures.

In San Francisco, a West Coast edition of the anti-Vietnam war rally was also planned.

President Nixon, chief target of today's march, will be in Camp David, Md., over the weekend.

Marshals Trained

The sponsor of the march, the National Peace Action Coalition, says it has trained 10,000 of its own parade marshals to help control crowds and advance publicity has stressed nonviolence.

Various NPAC spokesmen say they expect anywhere from 50,000 to over 200,000. City police predicted closer to 100,000. The November 1969 rally here, which had broad support among teachers, clergymen, housewives and other so-called middle Americans, was estimated at 250,000.

The Pentagon said although federal troops have been alerted, no units had actually been moved or prepositioned.

The alerted units were not identified, but last year part of the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, N.C., was brought to Washington, but was not used.

The Justice Department's re-

quested Pentagon alert was attacked by NPAC cochairman Jerry Gordon, who said in a statement Friday afternoon that NPAC regrets the action.

"We feel in the light of the peaceful nature of the march that the move can only have been motivated to confine GIs to their posts and prevent thousands of GIs from joining the march as they had planned," Gordon said. He said Mitchell's words were "last minute scare tactics" which, Gordon said, would actually serve to attract more people.

Trains Chartered

Despite that controversy, thousands throughout the eastern half of the country were heading for Washington. The Penn-Central Railroad said five 18-car trains from the New York City area have been chartered to bring protestors to Washington. Peace groups in New York also said they have chartered more than 450 buses to bring people.

The Chicago Peace Council announced 2,000 would make the trip to Washington. Peace groups in other cities were also active, including Tallahassee, Fla., where one bus and several car pools were being arranged.

Sen. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., endorsing the principle of "peaceful and lawful protest" against continued U.S. combat involvement in Vietnam, said in a telegram to the sponsors: "I also join with others of my colleagues in the hope that those who participate in these marches—including my daughter, Joy—will continue to realize that nonviolence and lawful conduct gives the most profound effect to their petition for peace."

The 108 veterans arrested Thursday at the Supreme Court were acquitted by District Of Columbia Superior Court Judge William Stewart who said he saw no evidence in the four-hour trial to suggest violence or force or that the veterans' assembly on the high court's steps inconvenienced anyone.