

Bravery medals discarded in anti-war stir

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WASHINGTON, April 25: In massive but non-violent anti-war demonstrations yesterday in San Francisco and Washington, American citizens told the Administration that they want "peace now."

Some 250,000 people, including GI's in service trade unionists carrying placards, construction workers in their hard hats, well-dressed business men and parents pushing baby carriages, marched 20 abreast to the U.S. Capitol to listen to speaker after speaker call for the immediate end of war.

The demonstrations topped those staged on Friday by returned American war veterans who, in an impressive show of their feelings, threw away their hard-won war medals because they had become to them "symbols of shame, dishonour and inhumanity."

About 700 medals for bravery were thus publicly discarded by the war veterans on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in an act that has profoundly shaken the nation. Several hundred veterans, many of whom were on crutches or had lost their limbs, participated in the week-long anti-war rallies.

At the prestigious National Health Institute, over 2,000 scientists, administrators and staff members gave their support to the anti-war efforts.

Whether all this tremendous show of national sentiment—this time not from students and hippies alone but from a wide cross-section of the American public—will have any effect on the Administration policy remains to be seen. President Nixon was holidaying at Camp David. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is considering six proposals to curtail or end the war.