

40 LEFTISTS HELD IN 47TH ST. MARCH

Demonstrators Try to Leave Route Agreed Upon at Meeting With Police

By JOHN SIBLEY

Forty leftists protesting the United States policy on Vietnam were arrested yesterday when their march across mid-Manhattan turned into a running battle with the police.

The demonstrators, of whom there were more than 200, had gathered in Duffy Square at Broadway and 47th Street in defiance of a Police Department ban against street rallies in the midtown area.

Among them were many of the same persons who staged a similar protest there a week earlier in a demonstration that resulted in 17 arrests.

Yesterday's disorders began shortly after a meeting between police officials and the rally's leaders at which it was agreed the demonstrators would march peacefully east along 47th Street to the United Nations Plaza.

The marchers had gone only one block when some tried to swing off the prescribed route

Continued on Page 18, Column 4



The New York Times (by Jack Mannings)

MIDTOWN DISTURBANCE: Police attempt to maintain order as leftist demonstrators against U.S. policy on Vietnam move on 47th Street near Madison Avenue toward U.N.

The New York Times

Published: August 16, 1964

Copyright © The New York Times

40 LEFTISTS HELD IN 47TH ST. MARCH

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

and march down the Avenue of the Americas. The police moved in quickly to block them and seized a half dozen demonstrators.

One of the first arrested was Phillip A. Luce, one of the two leaders who had negotiated earlier with the police. The other leader, Levi Laub, was arrested minutes later.

Both Luce and Mr. Levi were arrested during the demonstration the week before. And both are under Federal indictment for traveling to Cuba last year.

Most of the demonstrators appeared to be in their late teens or early twenties, although Mr. Luce is 27 years old and Mr. Laub 33.

"Fascist cops!" the demonstrators shrieked. "Police brutality! Nazis!"

Prodded eastward, the crowd tried again to turn south at Fifth Avenue and then at Madison. More arrests were made at each intersection. The police commandeered taxis to transport some of the prisoners to the West 30th Street station house.

The police frequently grasped their nightsticks at both ends, holding them horizontally to push back the demonstrators. During the previous week's demonstration they swung their clubs and used horses to control the crowd.

Some demonstrators were seized as they stood in the street, refusing police orders to move to the sidewalk. Several went limp as they were seized and had to be carried to patrol cars.

A police lieutenant who helped put several young women into a car walked back to the sidewalk with his face badly scratched.

Hecklers Join In

By this time, a band of hecklers had joined the procession. It grew to about 200 as it accompanied the police and demonstrators across town.

"Let them get jobs," the hecklers shouted, clearly in sympathy with the police. "Lock them up. Shoot them!"

At Second Avenue, the police forced the hecklers to turn north as the demonstrators continued east.

By the time the marchers reached First Avenue, only about 60 of the original 200 remained. Deputy Chief Inspector Arthur Morgan grabbed a bull horn and ordered his men to "break 'em up into small groups."

The police tore placards and leaflets from the demonstrators' hands and separated them into clusters of three or four.

Some of the students made a half-hearted effort to reassemble for a march back to Duffy Square, but this maneuver quickly lost momentum.

Most of those arrested were charged with disorderly conduct.

In Night Court, John Maguire, an attorney for the Police Department, urged that bail be set for the defendants on the ground that many of them had been arrested at the Aug. 9 rally. This indicated, he said, that the defendants had no in-

tention of observing the Police Department ban.

Judge Michael J. Castaldi then set bonds ranging from \$50 to \$500.

The larger amounts were paid by Albert Maher, the son of a millionaire Houston industrialist. Young Maher posted a \$10,000 bond last week for William Epton, a professed Communist charged with criminal anarchy.

The rally had been called by the May 2d Committee and by Youth Against War and Fascism. Its leaders said the purpose was to protest what they said was United States "military aggression" in Vietnam and to assert their right to protest in Duffy Square.

The police ban against demonstrations covers the area bounded by the Avenue of the Americas and Eighth Avenue and 42d and 57th Streets. It was imposed by Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy in the spring of 1962 following a demonstration against President Kennedy's decision to resume nuclear test explosions in the atmosphere.

'Gag' Is Charged

In a flyer seeking support for yesterday's rally, its sponsors denounced the ban as "a flimsy pretext to gag free speech."

The constitutionality of the ban will be tested in court Sept. 25 when the youths arrested Aug. 9 face trial on charges of disorderly conduct.

In addition to Mr. Luce and Mr. Laub, the police arrested Eddie Lemansky, one of 84 Americans who returned here Friday night after a trip to Cuba. On his arrival at Kennedy Airport, Mr. Lemansky was handed a subpoena summoning him to appear Sept. 3 before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

The May 2d group takes its name from the date of its first rally last spring. It was organized on the Yale University campus.

Youth Against War and Fascism had its origin on the City College campus two years ago.

A hundred spectators filled the room as Judge Castaldi began to arraign the demonstrators. About 40 persons, unable to get in, stood outside in a hallway.

The audience began to hiss at the outset of the hearings. The noise was quickly stifled, however, when Judge Castaldi set bail at \$1,000 for Mr. Lemansky. Later, he reduced the bond to \$100.

One demonstrator, Mrs. Helene Gershowitz of 420 West 26th Street, was paroled after her attorney told the court that she had a 10-month-old child. Before paroling her, Judge Castaldi asked her what she did for a living.

"I stay at home," she answered.

"Except for demonstrations," the judge commented, drawing a laugh from the spectators.

Further hearings on the disorderly conduct charges will be held next week in Part 1C of Criminal Court.

In supplying bail for many of the defendants, Mr. Maher put up several thousand dollars. Asked by reporters why he was providing the bonds, Mr. Maher said he believed the arrests were "pressures brought on by the Government to stamp out protests against the war in Vietnam."

"I do whatever I can," he added.