

Vietnam Protest

Can Millions Be Wrong?

Richard Nixon had already told them once before that he wasn't listening. Still they marched. In Washington, close to a quarter of a million persons opposing the war in Vietnam marched within a block of the White House in the largest demonstration ever held in the U.S.

In France, demonstrators marched in spite of a Government ban to show their support for U.S. protesters. Australia, another country contributing military to the war effort saw demonstrations in the streets as well.

Halifax had its demonstration of support. Though not on the grandiose scale of its counterparts across the world, the basic ingredients were the same.

Close to three hundred persons of varying political hues participated in Friday's march on the United States consulate, while two-thirds of that number braved the rain the following day to hear speeches against the war.

The demonstrators, most of them young, wore their politics on their placards. "Peace" and "Give Peace A Chance" adorned the posters of the peaceniks, while the moderates, who formed the bulk of the protesters, made their stand against Canadian complicity in the war. The NDY and other left groups carried signs which read "Vietnam Will Win: Support the NLF". The Dalhousie Student Movement carried pictures of Chairman Mao.

Their march on the American consulate through downtown streets drew mostly amused stares from lunch hour shoppers who quickly hurried into nearby stores as they passed.

At the American consulate the U.S. Representative in Halifax accepted the statement of the group calling for an end to Canadian complicity and the withdrawal of all American troops without a word of comment.

On Saturday Mayor Allan O'Brien, Labor Leader J.K. Bell, Kim Cameron and Barry McPeake of the Dalhousie NDY, Burris Devanney of the NDP, and Muriel Duckworth of the Voice of Women spoke to the crowds in Victoria Park.

It was the second month of the Moratorium protests across the world. In October, the protest was a single day in length, this month two days, 3 days in December and so on, until they have forced the American President into a withdrawal of troops from Vietnam.

Withdrawal of American forces is probably the single

rallying point for the divergent protest movement whose numbers include radicals and moderates in almost equal proportion.

The President however had told them he wouldn't listen, and so he kept his eyes and ears averted as they

walked within a block of the White House last Friday and Saturday. The question is: how long can he ignore them?

If the war continues until March 1972, it is likely that the Protesters will be marching every day of the month in opposition to the War. Will he still not listen?

