Arrests climax DC protest

By Pete Pockenky

WASHINGTON—A week of radiator protest in Washington culminated late Tuesday night with the arrest of 298 demonstrators who took to the White House grounds.

Tuesday's activities began at noon with a rally featuring co-chairman Dick Gregory at the Sibley Theater on the Washington Monument Grounds. According to the original permit negotiated with the District Department, the rally was to have taken place on Friday afternoon and was to be followed by a candle-light procession around the White House led back to the Sibley Theater. A torrential downpour shortcut these plans and forced the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ) to do some fast shifting, rescheduling and negotiating with the government. The group had a permit for a massive rally to be held on the ellipse between the White House and the Washington Monument on Tuesday morning at 11. This rally was to be followed by an attempt to serve an eviction notice on President Nixon in the White House.

At the request of the police, both days' activities were consolidated into one day, beginning Tuesday at noon. Various speakers, including the Rev. William Ayers from the Chicago Student Information Service, the Rev. Carl Koonce from the California Institute of the Arts, and the Elephant's Memory from the New Haven, Connecticut, called for the return to Washington of an estimated 200,000 who were arrested during the 1970 March on Washington. At this time, the cameras were turned to the crowd of 700 people gathered for the rally. Gregory argued that smoking marijuana and using heroin is a way of attacking the system and that these habits allow narcotics to enter the country. The crowd responded with something less than overwhelming enthusiasm. He urged the people to act responsibly to end the war, and said: "My hopes of ever eating again rests in your hands."

The comedian then gave his plan for ending the war in thirty days. He posted that if at the November 6 marches throughout the country the youth of the America were to announce a boycott of various products, the economic interests affected would react so strongly that President Nixon would be forced to end the war. "When you youngsters say on November 6 that you're going to boycott Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas gifts, that his government would have to end the war." The plan includes the immediate commencement of the release of prisoners of war, an immediate cease fire, and a coalition government open to everyone except South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu.

Davis said that the FRG and the DRV would accept veterans of the South Vietnamese army, school teachers, and the entire current government, with the exception of Thieu, into the coalition. The plan is only corollary to the original draft of the plan (Please turn to page 14)