

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1970

C1

## League Women Protest

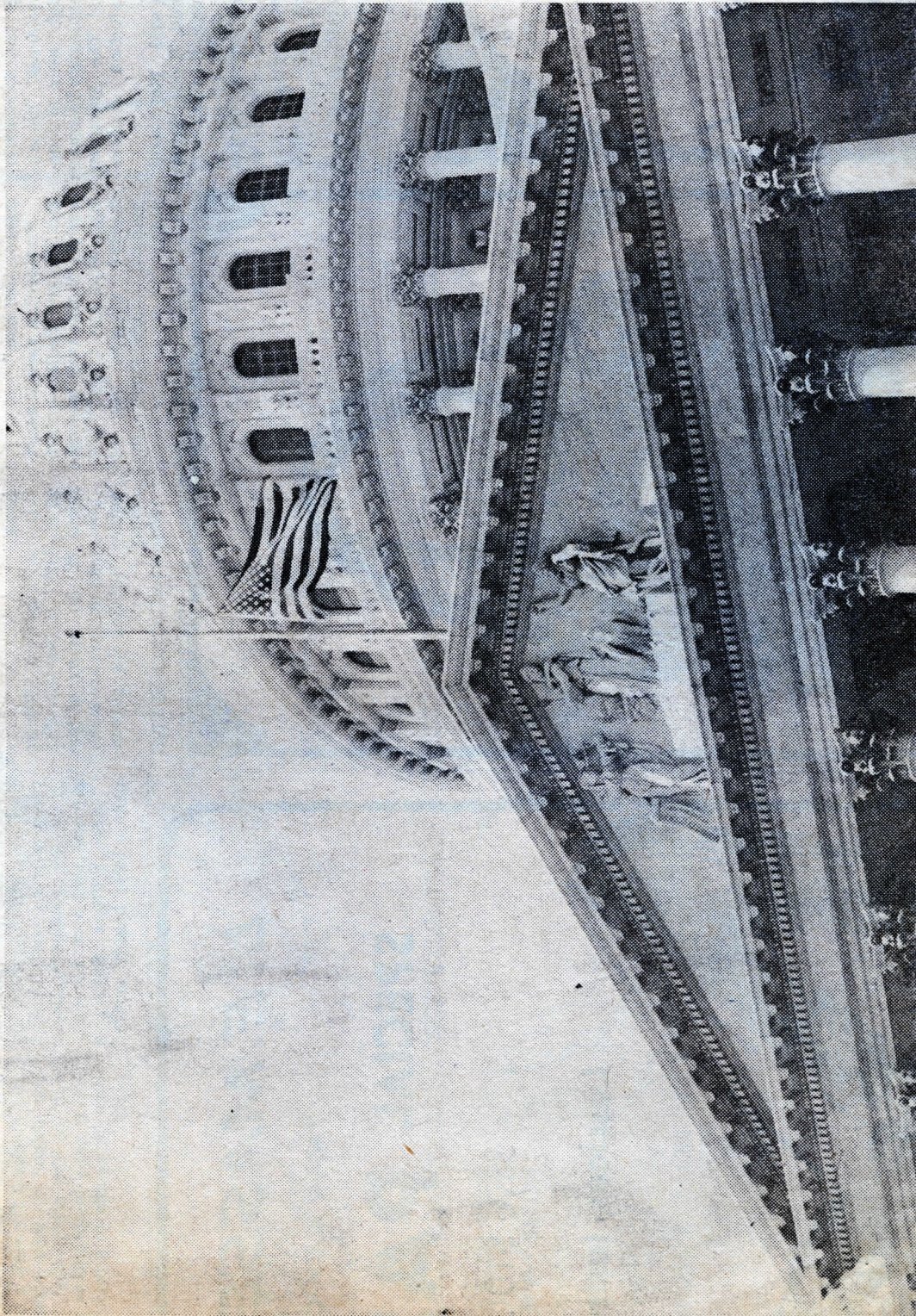
By Nancy L. Ross

In a sharp break with tradition, the League of Women Voters suspended its national convention here yesterday to allow members to participate in a noon vigil on the Capitol steps to protest U.S. intervention in Cambodia.

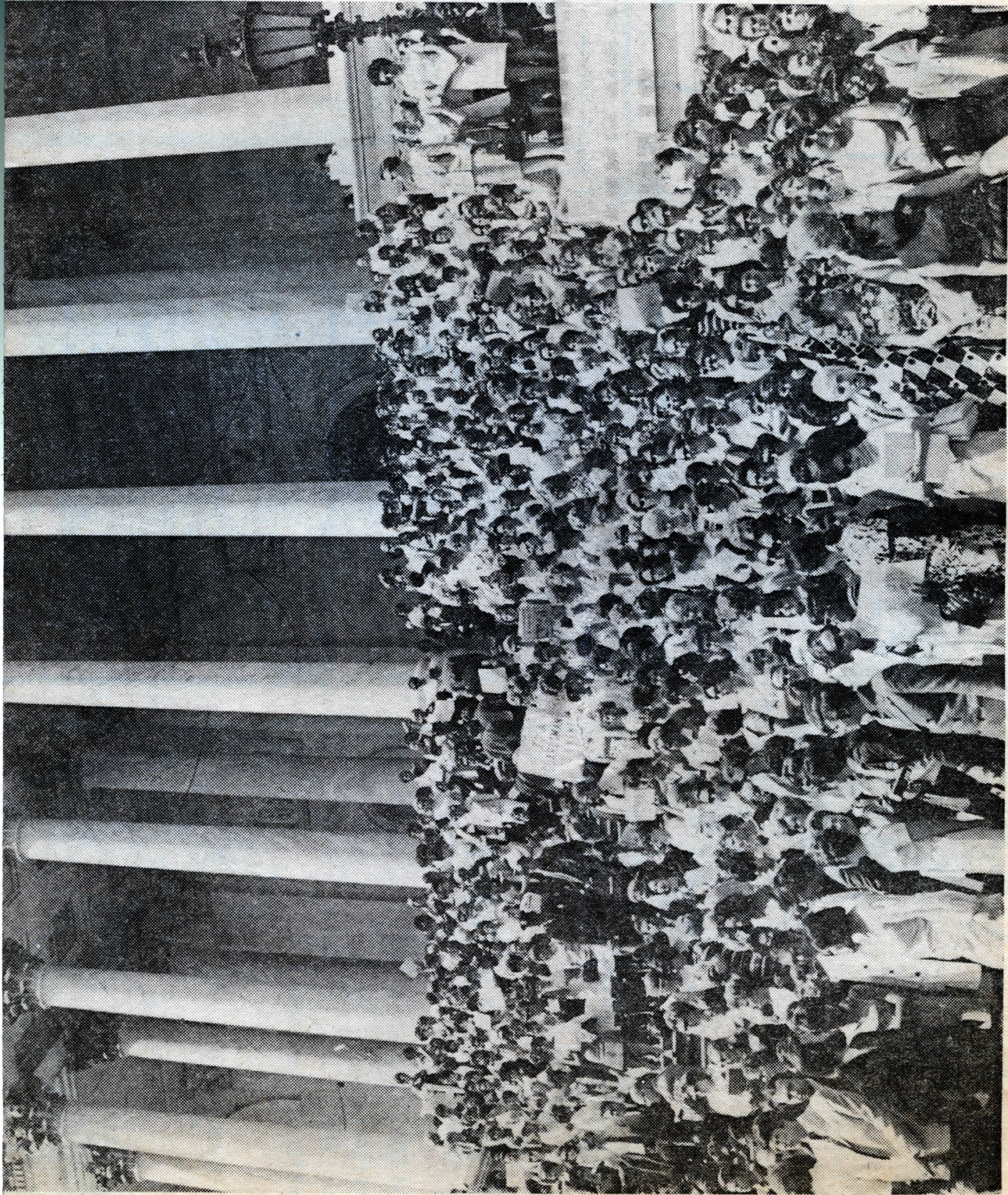
In a related development Shirley Temple Black, the former child movie star appointed by Mr. Nixon to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, told League members she believed any further escalation of the war in Indochina should be taken up by that international body.

Only Monday, the League voted not to consider resolutions on current issues like Cambodia on the grounds they had not been thoroughly studied at the grass roots level and a consensus brought to the convention.

However, a sufficiently large number of members still wished to express their







By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post

*Hundreds of League of Women Voters delegates protest U.S. intervention in Cambodia yesterday on the Capitol steps.*

personal viewpoints on the war so proceedings were adjourned for several hours to permit them to do so as individuals. It marked the first time within memory a national convention had taken such action.

Commenting on the vigil, a League member who asked not to be identified because she was representing another organization at the convention, said:

"The grass roots must be up in arms. This is the most activist convention I've seen. The League is always so careful not to do anything that does not have demonstrated local support. The League is so mainstream, so it means the grass roots must really be aroused (about Cambodia)."

None of the delegates saw any inconsistency in the League's philosophy of working within the Establishment (collecting and distributing information, writing to Congressmen, etc.) and refraining from partisan politics in their "individual acts of protest."

"We are acting as citizens; the League doesn't tell us what to do," said Mrs. Robert Shedd of Baltimore, expressing the sentiments of those who attended the vigil.

Mrs. James A. Welch of Simsbury, Conn., who did not participate because she does not believe in protests in general and this one in particular, agreed League members were free to act individually as they pleased. However, she feared that even though the demonstration did not represent the League's official thinking, it would be regarded by the public as having been sponsored by the League because the women went en masse.

See LEAGUE, C3, Col. 5