

# Round Up

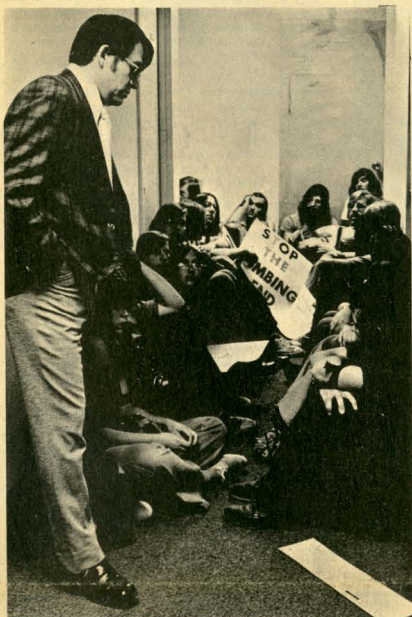
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FIVE CENTS



## War protestors jailed

The first large scale arrests in the history of local and anti-war activities took place Friday when 20 demonstrators refused to leave the corridor outside the local Selective Service offices. The demonstrators had marched from Corbett Center to the draft offices in the First National Bank Tower. Las Cruces Chief of Police Ben Silva (left), at the request of bank officials, ordered the protestors to vacate the private property. When they refused, they were arrested and charged with failure to obey a police order, a misdemeanor. Outside they were searched and then walked across the street to the county jail where they remained until Friday night.—Staff photos by McEntyre and Diven.

## Police arrest 20 anti-war activists for refusing to vacate bank hallway

Las Cruces City Police arrested 20 anti-war demonstrators following their refusal Friday afternoon to comply with police orders to leave a hallway outside the selective service office located on the third floor of the First National Bank tower.

The demonstrators, in continuing anti-war activities stemming from last week's moratorium against the U.S. bombing over North Vietnam, marched from Corbett Center to the Las Cruces Post Office and the local selective service office.

Police Chief Ben Silva had issued a demonstration permit to the group on Thursday.

Upon arriving at the post office, the marchers found that the selective service office had been moved to the bank tower, and continued on to the new location. Finding the office in the tower closed, the group sat outside in the hallway, awaiting the return of the selective service clerks, according to Silva.

Silva said bank official Ben Hains requested that the group leave, claiming that

they were blocking the hallway and disrupting the normal third floor office operations.

The police arrived around 3 p.m. and Silva gave them five minutes to leave. After a conversation with one of the demonstrators over legalities, Silva stretched the time limit to an additional 60 seconds. The 15 men and 15 women refused to leave, and were then arrested and escorted from the bank to the county jail.

The 20 were charged with failing to comply with an order issued by a police officer. They were arraigned by Municipal Judge Ralph Wanek. All of the marchers pleaded not guilty.

The group were released into the custody of the Rev. Jim Neilsen of United Campus Ministries, on the condition that there would be no repetition of the actions between Friday and the yet unannounced hearing date.

Neilsen had been telephoned by an unidentified bystander at the bank.