

10 Gay Activists Are Seized in City Hall

By EDWARD RANZAL

Ten members of the Gay activists Alliance—five men and five women—were taken into custody by the police late yesterday afternoon, after they had been accused of disrupting a City Council meeting by blowing tin whistles and shouting "bigots" and "justice."

In what appeared to be a planned demonstration, the Gay Activists, protesting the defeat last Friday by a City Council committee of a civil-rights bill for homosexuals, rose every three or four minutes to shout from the visitor's gallery at Councilmen seated in the chamber below. The police in the balcony moved swiftly to haul the demonstrators from their seats to a waiting police van outside City Hall.

The meeting of the full Council to vote on messages to be sent to Albany got underway at 6:30 P.M., delayed by meetings during the day of two Council committees.

Chant at Ceremony

Two minutes after City Council President Sanford D. Garelik had convened the session, two women rose in the balcony and began blowing tin whistles. Mr. Garelik warned that demonstrators would be removed.

There were about 30 members of the Gay Activists in the gallery along with 50 representatives of various tenant organizations, interested in bills concerning the end of rent

control. Every few minutes thereafter one or two Gay Activists would rise and shout either for "justice" or call the Councilmen "bigots."

The Gay Activists made their presence known at City Hall at about 1 P.M., by trying to divert attention from the city's diamond-jubilee observance on the City Hall Plaza, by chant-

Record Club Ads Cited In a Court Order Here

Charging the Record Club of America with false and deceptive advertising, the office of Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz, obtained in State Supreme Court yesterday an order requiring the club to justify its business practices or return \$288,000 to New Yorkers who were induced by ads for free tapes or records to enroll in the club.

The club, with headquarters in York, Pa., and offices here at 475 Park Avenue has membership fees of \$5, \$10, \$15, and \$25. A person who "joins" receives five song-playing records or three tapes for each \$5 of fee paid.

An assistant attorney general, Michael S. Kraft, said in an affidavit that the club had "mulcted the New York consumer public for over \$288,000 in 'membership fees' . . . not to mention the additional charge of 40 per cent" for mailing and handling. It is contended that the club is simply a discount-sale operation.

ing "bigot" when the City Council Majority Leader, Thomas J. Cuite, spoke briefly.

Later, Bruce Voeller, president of the Gay Activists, who was leading the demonstration on the fringe of the crowd, was arrested and charged with violation of Park Department regulations, harassment and disorderly conduct.

Threats Are Revealed

Several hours later, a suspect, who was described as a man dressed in a woman's pants suit, was arrested on disorderly conduct charges as he tried to climb the north wall of City Hall. The police identified the suspect as Sylvia Rivera, 22 years old, of 640 East 12th Street.

Meanwhile, the Gay Activists continued to hold Mr. Cuite responsible for the defeat of the bill to ban discrimination against homosexuals in housing, employment and public accommodations.

Last Friday and Saturday, the Majority Leader's office said, telephone calls were made to Mr. Cuite's home, threatening his life.

Last Friday evening, Mrs. Aileen B. Ryan, chairman of the General Welfare Committee, which voted down the homosexual bill, said she had received calls at her home, threatening to disfigure her or to strangle her. Mrs. Ryan attended yesterday's session, accompanied by two detectives acting as bodyguards.

The Council adjourned at 7:50 P.M. without any further incidents other than the arrest of the 10 persons.