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Protests greet president's visit

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Protesters, including women wearing pink slips, rallied today outside a downtown hotel where President Bush gave a mid-day address on the economy.

While Bush spoke at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel, about 500 protesters were across from the entrance of the hotel at 720 S. Michigan Ave.

The protesters represented many different causes including opposition to the war in Iraq and Bush's foreign policies, and other issues such as communism.

Hardly any protesters noticed as Bush's motorcade left the hotel and went west on Balbo Avenue.

Near the hotel entrance, about a dozen women wearing pink slips chanted: "Give Bush the pink slip."

One of the women, Betsy Chonitzer, 46, who said she was from a Chicago suburb, said, "We're trying to get Bush's attention to get our soldiers out of Iraq."

"Bush has blood on his hands," she said.

Uniformed police officers as well as some officers in plainclothes were on the scene. About 50 feet away from the protesters were a dozen police squad cars.

Protesters chanted: "U.S. out of Iraq," "Bush terrorist of the world," "Bring our troops home now," and "No more blood for oil."

Margaret Nelson, 58, a teacher and folk singer, had a 4-foot-tall puppet created on sticks. On the front of the puppet was a sign that read: "Blessed are peace makers."

Nelson said if Bush was such a Christian man than he should follow the words of Jesus Christ. "Bush must not be reading the Bible because blessed are the peace makers are an important part of the Bible," she said.

Bush toured the Chicago Board of Trade prior to the hotel stop.





