

Nixon Visit Sparks Dispute in Dayton

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DAYTON, Ohio, Sept. 18— In the aftermath of President Nixon's visit here Sept. 3 to dedicate the new Air Force Museum, Representative Charles W. Whalen, Republican of Ohio, has urged the commander of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to explain why part of the crowd was barred from the ceremonies.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio has joined in the outcry against the barring of cars with peace symbols, of younger persons with beards, bell bottom trousers and long hair, and of students from nearby Antioch College at Yellow Springs, Ohio.

A demonstration scheduled to take place during the President's visit was stopped at the museum's gates.

About 75 persons, including a newsman, were detained during the ceremonies and were later released outside the air base. No charges were filed.

A Dayton minister, the Rev. Ronald Eckberg, was dragged outside by air police after he reportedly placed an "Impeach Nixon" button on his lapel.

Secret Service officials have denied responsibility for barring visitors and Mr. Whalen said he was satisfied that the exclusions were not ordered by the Secret Service.

In a letter last week to Brig. Gen. Edmund A. Rafalko, commander of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Representative Whalen wrote: "If the allegations are correct—and I have not heard them refuted — it would appear that base security officials, rather than being concerned with the safety of the President, were making political decisions."

One Air Force statement said that ousters from a Federal installation were possible under a Federal law that allows military officials to remove and continue to bar people who commit illegal acts. The museum is on Federal property.

The dedication was scheduled outdoors and 200,000 visitors had been expected. But rain forced the ceremonies inside the huge museum and cut the attendance to about 10,000.

The museum houses a collection of aviation memorabilia dating from the Wright Brothers' first successful airplane flight at Kitty Hawk, N. C., in 1903.

The Air Force Museum Foun-

ation, a private organization, raised \$6-million for construction of the museum. During the dedication ceremonies, the building was turned over to the Air Force, which will maintain and operate the museum.