

Disabled stage sit-in

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Tenacious handicapped demonstrators said Wednesday their 23-day sit-in has helped people realize that "we can do what anyone else can do" - and one result is material support from organizations as varied as the Teamsters and Black Panthers.

The 125 protesters, some blind, some crippled, some deaf, have set up housekeeping in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare regional offices here with improvised showers, cleanup squads and donated groceries.

Typical of community support was the appearance Tuesday of Allan M. Baird, president of Teamsters Local 921. He strode down the cluttered hallway toward the demonstrators, a grin on his face and, in his hand, a \$10 check from a used car salesman.

"This demonstration has made people realize that we can do what anyone else can do, not only by sitting in, but by expressing what we want and asking

for what is ours," said Linda Gill, a partially sighted 25-year-old from Berkeley, Calif.

"We've made people realize that because someone has a disability it doesn't make them helpless or ignorant."

The handicapped coalition occupied the building April 5 and has vowed to remain until HEW Secretary Joseph Califano signs regulations banning discrimination against handicapped persons in any activity receiving federal funds.

"We're determined," said Miss Gill. "It's not like we want something impossible or unreasonable. It means our basic civil rights."

She said the Teamsters, Safeway stores, Black Panthers party and others have given the protesters food and money during the long siege.

She said the demonstrators are enthusiastic and are getting by well in their makeshift encampment on the

fourth floor of the old federal building.

Last week Mayor George Moscone ordered shower hoses hooked up to some of the sinks. Wheel chair-height pay telephones were installed for the protesters on orders of Rep. Phillip Burton, D-Calif.

They have organized committees to take care of cleaning, food, press relations and federal negotiations. Several members of a contingent that went to Washington, D.C., last week planned to rejoin their comrades Wednesday night.

Meetings

Right-to-Life — 7 p.m. today; University Hall 106.

Christians on Campus — 12:30 p.m. today; University Hall 228.

SAB Entertainment Council — 12:30 p.m. today; Ransom Hall 100.

SAB Forums Council — 2:30 p.m. today; Ransom Hall 100.