

The CONTINENTAL NEWS



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WALK ENTERS ARIZONA

Through Southern California the Walk underwent many changes. In Los Angeles the Walk swelled to 300 people, including 70 long distance walkers. The number of long distance walkers was reduced to 25 by a selection process stretching over a 2 1/2 week period as the Walk reached the edge of the Mohave Desert. These 25 walkers entered Arizona March 28 and are due in Phoenix April 7.

As February ended, the Walk was proceeding South through California towards Los Angeles. In March Ted Joanne Sheehan and David McReynolds from the Walk National Office and Clearing Committee went to California to meet with the walkers. The Walk had grown and was now made up of over 70 long distance walkers. There were problems with many of the walkers not having an understanding of the concepts of the walk and the issues, the nonviolent discipline, the organizers functions, and group process. The Walk was stopped for 3 days so that these could be worked out with walkers and local and national organizers. After 3 days it was felt that we had begun to clear up some of the misunderstandings and problems. The walkers were moving towards accepting a nonviolent discipline Agreement based on the one in the Walk Organizers Manual, and a council was set up to insure that jobs were taken care of (such as food preparation, monitors for the Walk, etc.).

The Walkers and organizers left their meeting-eating-sleeping quarters on Saturday morning March 6 with the understanding that things would be worked out over the next week at evening meetings. The Walk went through Thousand Oaks Saturday afternoon. That evening walkers attended the Mimi Fariña concert in Los Angeles set up as a benefit for the Walk. Dan Ellsberg spoke and the Buddhist Monks greeted the audience with a Japanese prayer for peace.

On Sunday 300 people gathered at the Federal Building to walk 10 miles along Wilshire Blvd. to MacArthur Park. There David McReynolds spoke of the importance of the connections the Walk was and could make. The walkers then went to the Newman Center at the University of Southern California where the L.A. Catholic Worker provided supper.

In Claremont the walkers joined with 140 people for a dinner provided by local organizers. During dinner "The Ark", a group of Californians who do guerrilla theatre, performed a skit based on the evils of nuclear energy. There were displays of literature and speakers from Bread for the World, UPW, amnesty projects, War Tax Resistance and the Walk.

In Riverside, a two days walk from Claremont, the walkers were met by more local walkers on the edge of town and all walked to City Hall. There several people spoke of the importance of organizing for disarmament and social justice. On Sunday some of the walkers were invited to speak in local churches. That afternoon the Riverside folks sponsored a pot luck picnic and were joined by the car caravan from San Diego. The San Diego people had walked for two days from the Mexican border to San Diego before becoming a car caravan to Riverside. San Diego had sponsored many local activities, including a talk by Dan Ellsberg.

Since the Thousand Oaks meetings, meetings had been held when possible to work out the problems which had been raised and not solved. Two of the organizers from Arizona came to Riverside to meet with the walkers. They were concerned that the Walk would enter Arizona with problems still unresolved. Besides the problem of too many long distance walkers and the lack of group discipline, many of the walkers were not able to speak to the public or press about the issues, lacked respect for the local organizers, and disagreed with the original concept of the Walk. Several of the walkers and organizers from Los Angeles, Arizona and Joanne from the National Office got together to see what could be done. It was decided that the Walk would stop for a week and walkers would go through a training session on the issues and role plays on how to speak with the press, etc. At the end of the week the organizers and representatives of the long distance walkers selected a group of walkers to continue. This group has now reached Arizona. They have formed collectives to insure that certain tasks are taken care of such as food buying, leaflets and literature, finances, communication with regional and national offices, etc. They have also formed study groups on the issues related to the Walk. (A more detailed report will be sent to organizers and sponsors.)

FINALE WASHINGTON, D.C., OCTOBER 16

The tentative scenario for the finale in Washington is for a massive gathering at 2 pm on Saturday, October 16. People from all over the country will arrive by bus, car, train, and plane. The Walk will enter Washington at 3 pm from the north, west, and south. From 3pm to 5pm the Capitol will be surrounded with a moving picket. At 7 pm there will be a rally at the Sylvan Theater.

Sunday, October 17, there will be morning worship services and workshops in the afternoon.

Then on Monday October 18 a civil disobedience action at the Pentagon will be staged, with actions also aimed at the CIA.

A group of Washington organizers have begun meeting to plan this scenario. The next meeting is March 30.

JAPANESE GET VISAS

In one of the major victories of the Walk, the U.S. Immigration Service has relented and allowed an extension of the visas for 3 of the Japanese Buddhists on the Walk. Reportedly, the files for the Buddhists were bulging with letters.

NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

Although local and regional media coverage of the Walk has been great, national coverage has been rather non-existent, except for a few AP reports and the UPI telephoto from the San Francisco part of the Walk.

However, recently we have made some headway into the national media. The CBS morning news of March 10 and the March 9 Washington Post mentioned the Walk's passage through LA. The Boston *Globe* carried an article by Chuck Fager on the overall scope of the Walk. The March 8 Merv Griffin Show displayed a copy of *Pravda* carrying the Lbl telephoto of the Walk from San Francisco (brought back by a visitor to the Soviet Union). And the March 8 Time magazine showed a photo of the walkers at Diablo Canyon, one being dragged off under arrest.

35 mm SLIDES

Allison Metcalf and Larry Johnson have initiated a slide show-making project on the Walk. The national office will assist in the effort and is soliciting 35 mm slides from Walk organizers around the country. Please send slides (or photos) that might best represent organizing efforts and the focus of the Walk in your region.

E. A. A.

John Stoltenberg has suggested that one possible focus of regional and local Walk activities might be around the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in those states which have not ratified it: Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia. Out of these 16 states the Walk will definitely pass through 12 and may pass through 2 additional ones. John suggested that actions could be in the form of collecting signatures on a special pro-ERA petition, leafleting, lobbying legislators, etc.

CORRECTION

In the last Walk NEWS (# 10) it was stated that Mothers for Peace in San Luis Obispo organized the demonstration at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. Although Mothers for Peace have been organizing against the Diablo Canyon power plant for some months and did organizing events in San Luis Obispo for the Walk, the demonstration itself was organized by the walkers.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE CALL

St. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr., Episcopal Bishop of New York, Brewster Rhoads of the Coalition for a New Foreign Policy, and singer Peter Yarrow are all new signers to the Call for the Walk.

The Southern Organizing Committee (SOC), a group of poor white and blacks organizing for basic human rights, is now sponsoring the Walk. The groups based in Tennessee, was organized by Anne Braden.

APRIL 4

A letter signed by Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr., Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and Daniel Day was sent to sympathetic church constituencies around the country asking them to take up a special collection on April 4 (anniversary of King's assassination) for the Walk. Though there may not have been enough time to prepare for taking up a collection and announcing the Walk on April 4, we hope that there will be an opportunity on some later Sunday.

NATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The Executive Committee of the National Peace Council (based in London) sends their wishes to the marchers and workers on the walk for disarmament and social justice. Sheila Oakes, General Secretary of the National Peace Council, writes the 70 affiliated organisations have been informed of the Walk.

FOR BROCHURE

Enclosed is a copy of the FOR brochure "In Arms We Trust". Additional copies are available for \$4.50 per 100 from FOR (Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960). They also carry a petition on "the endangered human species."

ORGANIZING

THE SOUTH

S.C.L.C. and S.O.C. have been preparing for the start of the Southern branch of the Walk, which is to begin on April 4 in New Orleans.

Rev. Abernathy of SCLC, Anne Braden of SOC, and Jim Peck of WRL will be joining the rally and other activities in New Orleans on the fourth. The walking out of New Orleans begins on April 5 and will go through Baton Rouge, Jackson, Hattiesburg, Meridian, Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Atlanta, Athens, Augusta, Columbia, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, High Point, Greensboro, Sunham, Raleigh, Petersburg, and Richmond. This route includes 6 state capitols. SCLC has estimated that the total budget for the Southern branch will be near \$90,000. They expect to have a minimum of 50 walkers at all times.

COLORADO

On April 5 the Colorado to New Mexico branch of the Walk will leave Boulder. The first action will be at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant. The major focus of this branch will be nuclear power plants and weapons, land use, and peace education, according to organizers Pam Solo and Judy Danielson (1428 Lafayette, Denver, CO 80218). Local people in Boulder, Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Alamosa are busy organizing support, participants, meeting halls, lodging, food, and generating discussion of issues. In Pueblo, local people plan to talk about the need for 100% dam completion; a woman whose son was involved in an anti-war action and has been underground ever since will speak about the need for universal, unconditional amnesty. A film on nuclear proliferation and citizen involvement will be shown, and there will be discussion on the nuclear initiative that will be on the ballot this year in Colorado.

The Boulder planning group is holding a Continental Walk Fair at the University to publicize the Walk and get help. One small aide effort that some Colorado teachers are interested in working on is having school children write letters to Harold Agnew at Los Alamos about their own hopes for the future and thoughts on disarmament and social justice. One entire elementary school will write letters and have a map track the progress of the Walk up in the school hall. We were delighted to find out that a fiddler will be with us part of the way. We are putting out a newsletter for the Colorado walkers.

TEXAS

The two Texas routes have been changed to a series of mini-walks with car caravans. On April 10 there will be a Walk through Houston; on April 14 through Austin (focusing on the 7-state regional headquarters of the IRS); on April 15 through San Antonio; on April 16 through Bryan (home of Texas A & M). Then on May 8 a two week Walk will begin at Glen Rose (the site of a nuclear power plant

at a ... to Dallas.

Many ... that they have purchased a copy of "Lovejoy, A ... and that they are ... a lot of response to the "no-nuke" focus. ... the Federally funded American Issues Forum (of which San Antonio is one ... the ... may allow one of their 4 weeks in San Antonio to deal with the issues of "peace conversion" and "decentralization."

LOS ANGELES

Ron Slater is working on a panel/open forum event as followup to the Walk in Los Angeles. The theme will be "Nonviolence and the Conflict of Conscience". It is being scheduled for the Fall and he hopes to attract people such as Allen Ginsberg and Richard Barnett. If you have any suggestions or ideas, write to Ron at Loyola Marymount University (Loyola Blvd. at W. 80 St., LA 90045).

INDIANA

On April 23-25 there will be a meeting to discuss the feeder route from Evansville to Bloomington to Indianapolis to Muncie to Fort Wayne. It will be held at the Peace and Life Center in Upland (17 miles north of Muncie). The tentative plans are for the route to leave Evansville on August 18. For more information contact Jim Lepetwine (RR #2, Box 73, Funkirk, Indiana 47336).

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL

Tentatively the Minneapolis to Madison walk will leave Minneapolis August 1. The route will pass by the Stillwater State Prison, the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant, the Wisconsin Dells tourist area (raising the question of exploitation of Native Americans), and then the dormant munitions factory in Baraboo (WI) to promote the peace conversion issue). Contact Earl Schwartz (2005 Vincent North, MPLS, MN 55411, 529-3184).

PLAINS STATES

At the February 27 regional meeting held in Columbia, MO, there was a discussion concerning organizing activities in individual communities. Lawrence, KS, has had two organizing meetings since January. They plan on holding a pot luck supper for all interested individuals and organizations. In Newton, KS, contacts have been made and a local meeting will take place soon. There also is some organizing beginning in Wichita. An organizing meeting was held March 23 in Manhattan, Kansas.

In St. Louis the primary focus will be defense contractors and the B-1 bomber. An outreach program is being set up with outreach into high schools.

Those present at the regional meeting felt that the Walk should focus on several issues not a multitude of issues. Each local region will determine what they feel is most important to focus on. All felt that there should be a major action by walkers on July 4, with individuals actions in all towns. The next regional meeting for the four state area (Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska) will be March 27.

NEW ENGLAND

The New England branch of the Walk is pulling together very solidly. The Boston area planning meetings are being held on a roughly bi-weekly basis to discuss funding, timetable, outreach, long distance walkers, etc. Two routes have definitely solidified: one from Boston and one from Western Massachusetts (perhaps even Vermont). A nice little brochure for the New England walk has been designed with the tentative route. Write Boston-Washington Walk, 48 Inman St., Cambridge, MA 02139, for more information. New England sponsoring organizations include New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, Peoples Action for Clean Energy, WRL, APSC, WILPF, so far.

All who are interested in long distance walking (for 100 miles or more) are required to fill out a questionnaire, available from the national office. In addition, they will be interviewed by a Walk organizer. This procedure does not guarantee being accepted as a long distance walker since such walkers are added as needed—and then only on a trial basis.