

The CONTINENTAL NEWS



Issue 13

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Southern Walk Arrested & Gassed

St. Francisville, LA, April 28.

Early this morning, as participants on the Southern route of the Continental Walk continued their journey, all 25 of the walkers were arrested. The Sheriff of this Parish, located 25 miles north of Baton Rouge, charged them with "disruption of the flow of traffic", "disorderly conduct," etc. Tear gas was used to make the arrests, though all Walk participants remained peaceful during the course of the detentions. The Sheriff is reported to have commented that he didn't like people coming in and "stirring up my niggers."

All but nine of the 25 walkers were released after a short time from the West Feliciana Parish Jail, located 17 miles south of the Mississippi border, in Louisiana. The nine, who were not local citizens were released a few hours later on their "own recognizance" with trial set for September 8. Efforts are underway to have all charges dropped.

The night before (Sunday) 300 residents of St. Francisville turned out for a walk rally. And 150 people started the Walk that Monday until the city border where "the 25" continued until arrest. The next day, Tuesday, over 100 St. Francisville residents—unintimidated—turned out to be with the Walk.

Walk Enters New Mexico

Neither a snow storm nor a fire prevented the walkers from plodding into New Mexico on April 22.

Walker/organizer Mandy Carter reports that on April 15 "the Walk was in for a surprise as we camped out in Salt River Canyon, about 100 miles east of Phoenix. That night and the two following days, we were caught in a snow storm that left 6 inches in Show Low. We were taken in and housed at Lakeside Lodge outside Show Low by a family of church people. Tragedy struck Lakeside Lodge on April 19 when a weak gas line in the home exploded in the early morning hours as most of us slept. Within minutes the entire lodge, built in 1920, was engulfed in flames. Fortunately no one was seriously injured with the exception of the proprietress who suffered 2nd degree burns on her hands and legs."

While in Phoenix on April 8 the Walk participated in a demonstration at a Reagan rally. And on April 9 the walkers presented an appeal from the Mayor of Hiroshima to Representative Bruce Wheeler.

Since entering the heart of the Southwest, the long distance walkers have become more isolated than in California and would appreciate letters of support and encouragement:

from May 8-13	c/o Dorie Hunting, 5021 Guadalupe Tr., Albuquerque 87107
from May 14-31	c/o General Delivery, Amarillo, TX 79604
from June 1-16	c/o Jeff Sather, 1202 Windsor Way, Norman, OK 73069.

NOTES

PUEBLO PROCLAMATION

"WHEREAS, people are walking from San Francisco to Washington this year on the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice; and

"WHEREAS, a group left Denver, April 6th and will be in Pueblo April 21-23 to join the main walk;

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry G. Reyes, President of the Council of the City of Pueblo, Colorado, by the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim the days of Monday, April 19 through Friday, April 23, 1976, as 'CONTINENTAL WALK WEEK' in the City of Pueblo, and urge all citizens to recognize this special occasion with appropriate activities."

Two, three, many Pueblos!

WALK IN SYNDICATED COLUMN

Nationally syndicated columnist Michio Arima (of the Japan Times) wrote a column on the Continental Walk which appeared in the April 25 New York Times. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter. Those of you in other cities who see the column in other papers, please let us know so we can have a feel on what papers picked it up.

LITERATURE

The office just received a number of copies of "Disarmament: Peace and War: The Quest for Disarmament", put out in the Bulletin of Peace Proposals (1975) edited in Oslo, Norway.

This 20-page booklet gives a brief run-down of the world arms buildup and the various attempts at disarmament or arms control. There are the usual statistics on cost and number of arms, as well as an analysis of the effects of armaments on society, etc. But more important the booklet provides a nice critique of disarmament negotiation from the 1961 Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty through SALT. The booklet points out that "disarmament negotiations have been transformed into a forum for armaments rationalization and legalization." Though the authors call for increased education on disarmament, they do not discuss unilateral disarmament as a possible solution. Copies are available from the Walk office for 25c (which just covers the 1st class postage).

NEW SIGNER

Singer Harry Belafonte has joined the list of prominent signers to the call for the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice.

INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE

A photo of the walkers crossing the Golden Gate Bridge on January 30 with a story on the Walk was carried in the Yomiuri newspaper. The Yomiuri paper has the largest circulation in the world, with a readership of six million people.

TWO MORE JAPANESE GET VISAS EXTENDED

Rev. Kazuro Kawamoto and Rev. Masahiro Morita, two young Japanese men from the Buddhist Temple, joined the walk on March 26. Their visas, only good for 30 days, got extended for 6 months in Phoenix. Partial reasons for the lack of complications in the extensions was due to the previous successful extensions of 3 other Buddhist monks on the Walk, Reverends Kunio, Hiroshi, and Hiroshi.

ORGANIZERS' MEETING

The weekend of June 12-13 has been set aside for a meeting of Walk organizers around the country. The purposes of this meeting is to plan for Washington, D.C., and to get people to Washington; to prepare for the rest of the country for the Walk; and to work on follow-up. The meeting to be held in Chicago, will only happen if there are enough organizers who can attend from various representative regions around the country. Please let us know by May 14.

REGIONAL VEHICLES

All organizers are requested to secure a vehicle (preferably a van) to be available in their region when the Walk passes through. There is currently one national vehicle with the Walk. Long distance walkers Walter and Mary Jane Boyle have lent their converted mail van to the effort, but another (provided by each region) is needed.

NAMES

The national Walk office has discovered that there are people within every region who are working on the Walk but are not on our list. Organizers are encouraged to send us the names and addresses of those people, as well as an indication of their function (i.e., organizer, community walker, contributor, etc.).

ORGANIZINGTEXAS

From May 8 to 10 the Texas feed-in route of the Walk will be focusing on the Glen Rose nuclear Power Plant, southwest of Ft. Worth. On May 11 this year the Walk will enter Ft. Worth. From May 15 to 19 there will be a tour of the Charles F. Smith Nuclear Reactor, and Carswell Air Force Base. The De La Salle contractor (CIV) will be located on May 20. The first of the tour will be on May 21.

the walkers will reach Dallas May 21-23 where Rockwell International will be leafleted as well as a housing project and an employment office. Write or call organizer Bobby Slovak (616 Millard, Dallas 75203, 214-943-6819) for more information.

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

Organizer Pat Lacefield reports that David McReynolds gave the Walk "much visibility." He attended several good meetings (in University classes, etc.), appeared on two TV stations, and was on five radio shows as well as attending the regional organizing meeting on April 24. Each week organizers have been attracting new people and getting out the word by extensive leafletting.

NEW JERSEY

The first statewide organizing meeting for New Jersey was held on April 10. The 10 or 12 people in attendance made preliminary decisions regarding timetable and route. The route will go through Ft. Lee, Hoboken, Jersey City, Newark, Elizabeth, New Brunswick, Princeton, Trenton, Wallingboro, and Camden. There is the possibility of an additional route from Ridgewood to Newark.

At the next meeting (May 9 in Princeton) decisions will be made on a New Jersey call for the Walk, discussion of statewide issues, and finalizing the route. Interested people should contact Larry Erickson (2140 Apollo St. #5B, Ocean, NJ 07712).

The NJ section of the Walk has been endorsed by NJ Sane, Jersey Shore WSL, Delaware Valley Sane, Social Action Committee of the First Unitarian Church of Monmouth County, Day House (a cooperative community), NJ Tricentennial Committee, and the Hoboken Labor Zionist Youth (a left-wing Jewish group).

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL

Local organizing has been going well according to Earl Schwartz. The local FOR/WRL, UPW, and the rank and file Guild of Taxi Drivers have been in on the planning. This branch of the Walk plans to leave the Twin Cities on July 26 to arrive in Madison on August 17. There is the possibility of an additional route from south central Minnesota. Pat Hessel has succeeded in arranging for a speaking engagement on violence and the Walk to a group of high school students—complete with a modest honorarium.

WESTERN NEW YORK STATE

The Syracuse to Cleveland feed-in branch of the Walk will be leaving on August 22. On June 5 there will be an all day "Continental Walk Workshop" conducted by Carl Zietlow in Syracuse. Organizers and long distance walkers from Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Erie, and thereabouts are encouraged to participate. Contact Bob Russell, 711 Orisko, Syracuse, NY 13204 or 315-478-2827.

NEW ENGLAND

A feed walk from Worcester to Boston is in the planning stages. For the main New England route (beginning in Boston August 6) there are two possible sites for a starting point: the old North Church and Faneuil Hall. Both sites have a Bicentennial appeal and are in well populated areas. The idea of putting up a Hiroshima plaque is under consideration. Another idea involves constructing a disarmament float to be used in the July 4th parades.

Organizing has begun in Plymouth and Brockton. Some contact has been made with the Pinckton Tenants Union and Plymouth has a nuclear power plant which needs critical attention. The next meeting is scheduled for May 6 at the AFSC in Cambridge.

WISCONSIN

Besides the route from Minneapolis through Madison to Milwaukee, there are plans underway for an additional feed route from northern Wisconsin, Fox River Valley area, and upper Michigan that will join the main feed route in Milwaukee.

Specific plans for Wisconsin include demonstrations at the veterans hospital at Tomah, Camp McCoy (National Guard), nuclear power plants, a munitions factory, Wisconsin Dells (protesting the commercialization of Indian Culture), as well as social justice sites.

David McReynolds participated in several meetings on April 27-28 in Milwaukee concerning the Walk at the Hue High Center and the Socialist Party headquarters.

CHICAGO

Send report for L.A. walk organizers to the Chicago office and WRL office.

was held in April. There were slides and movies; photos of past demonstration, marches, and actions; reminiscing, reflections, and refreshments—all for a \$2.50 contribution.

KANSAS

The United Ministries Building in Lawrence has constructed a wooden map of the U.S. which is showing the progress of the walk. The nuclear power plant in Burlington will be a local focus of the walk. Plans are underway for a statewide action at Topeka against nuclear power plants. Activities throughout the region will vary from athletic events, to conferences, to test shows and other educational events.



Nicholas Von Hoffman

THE NEW ARMS RACE

WASHINGTON

The happy news is that the Russians do understand the full scale of the arms race, as excerpts from this official State paper show:

In proportion as the armaments of each Power increase, so do they less and less fulfill the object which the Governments have set before themselves. . . . It appears evident that if this state of things were prolonged, it would inevitably lead to the very catastrophe which it is desired to avert. . . . To put an end to these incessant armaments . . . such is the supreme duty which is today imposed on all States."

The not-so-good news is that the above was prepared by the Comar for the 1966 Hague conference on disarmament. So where does that leave us? Just now it leaves about 25 of us walking east along a highway near the Arizona-New Mexico border.

These 25 hitters are the core group of the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice. Since setting out in January from California, they report several thousand people have walked a portion of the way with them. When they reach Washington in October they expect to be joined by other walkers from New Orleans and New England.

Fretty frail stuff with the airwaves clogged with talk about better bombers and slicker missiles. Besides their feet, about all these veterans carry upon pedestrians have is the peace sign. Dick Nixon, Sammy Davis Jr., J. Walter Thompson, Ed Muskie and Hollywood are finished with it so the famous symbol catches to them.

* * *

The symbol — thought to be a stylized atomic mushroom — isn't an artifact of the '60s but of the previous decade. If you think these people look pathetic trudging, unattended by the national media, down the side of the road, clad only in jeans and idees, you have no conception of how taggaty the disarmament people of the '50s appeared.

That was the period when the hys critically misnamed Nelson Rockefeller was running around like a duck with its head cut off, quacking for us to take over, and clergymen were debating the ethics of shooting a stranger who might seek sanctuary in the backyard family bomb shelter. We had national air raid drills, and in New York fathers to clear the streets when the sirens sounded could get you as much as a man as a man to jail.

Against this 1950s background 27 individuals defied the no raid warnings. They were people like Dorothy Day and Agnes Hennessy of the Catholic Church, Rev. A.J. Muste of the A. M. E. Church, James and Morris Paul Goodman (Goodman was and has taken part in that particular demonstration but he was the kind of person who did the sort of peaceful thing that was ignored by the prestigious corporate class), and such who are regarded as responsible authoritative voices until it is too late.

In due course the 27 arrested (and some were later jailed), and the Supreme Court even eager to play burglar for the executive branch, could find no reason to overturn the verdict. Nevertheless other signs for peace lined up, like the four Quakers who raised the Kitty Golden Rule over the restricted area of the Pacific when the hydrogen bomb was about to be tested in 1952. At my house some 5000 days in jail for the same reason (Golden Rule was the first to lead the 27 others who were jailed).

Peace marchers cultivate a terrifying simplicity. The real world whips complexity in their ears to convince them that disarmament is impractical or not altogether desirable. The spring rains further rich harvests and munitions further prosperity because the real chance isn't guns or butter, it's make the guns to get the butter.

Unilateral disarmament? Leave your country naked in front of her enemies? Call that variation of L.H. do you, and what about our allies? Naturally, you're naive enough to believe the Russians are going to negotiate in good faith.

If you can fight off those objections, you might want to go marching. Proceeding down the road you might tell yourself that America hasn't bargained in good faith either, and isn't the strongest power the one which must make the first concessions? After 80 years of international peace conferences that didn't come off, oughtn't we to know that the lesser power will never consent to locking itself into military inferiority?

* * *

There was a short moment a few years ago when pacifists weren't looked at as wholly contemptible. The moment is over. America is on the biggest arms binge since Jack Kennedy went berserk in the gun store and bought out the place in the early '60s. The atmosphere has turned so salty that Ford is afraid to use the word détente in public.

Strength is the vogue word of the hour, America, second to none, first in war, always at war, we are again a nation of eagles. Or are we? Do you mean to tell me that those 25 unarmed people will tramp alone into that afternoon sun?

NEW YORK POST
April 29, 1976