

The CONTINENTAL NEWS



issue 14 May 24, 1976

339 Lafayette St.
New York, N.Y. 10012
(212)677-5455



The Southern branch of the Walk as it leaves New Orleans on April 5

photo by James Guillot
New Orleans States-Item

25 Walkers Arrested in Mississippi

SECOND TIME IN A MONTH

WALKERS MEET WITH GOVERNOR

Laurel, Miss., May 24.

We have just received word that 25 participants on the Southern Route of the Continental Walk were arrested this afternoon (May 24) in Laurel, Miss. by the State Highway Department for "obstructing the flow of traffic" and "failing to obey a lawful command." Those arrested include 3 Japanese Buddhist monks; a Japanese Buddhist nun, a Roman Catholic nun; Rev. James Orange, executive staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Mississippi coordinator for the Walk; Tyrone Brooks, communications director for SCLC, plus 18 black and white members of the Walk.

The walkers had taken shelter during a sudden thunder storm. When the first 25 of the 68 emerged to resume walking, they were immediately arrested. Bail has been set at \$150 for each of the 25. The walkers were arrested despite the letter from W.O. Dillard, commissioner of Public Safety in Mississippi which assured the Department's cooperation with the walkers.

Jackson, May 9

The southern Continental Walk route organized by SCLC met with Governor Clifford Finch presenting a *Bill of Particulars* on joblessness in the state (lowest per capita income in United States), revenue sharing, food stamp inequity and administrative justice/capital punishment. The group linked these issues with disarmament and the reordering of economic priorities. A rally of 200 people in Jackson, Mississippi followed the presentation. Problems linger over police clearance on highways. An agreement had been made with the state of Mississippi to allow one full line of walkers with the traffic on a four lane highway and shoulder clearance on two lane highway. The Highway Department has not fully cooperated with the agreement but the Walk is proceeding. Presently, the southern route is moving from Mendenhall to Hattiesburg. The Walk will continue trekking through the state of Mississippi during May reaching Alabama by June 1st.

FUND APPEAL

There is a continuing financial crisis with the Continental Walk. We thank those of you that have contributed in the past and once again must ask for money.

To keep the national Walk office open we must pay the rent, telephone bills, salaries, postage, printing and publicity costs. To continue to organize we must seek field organizers where there are none, provide posters, buttons, leaflets, food/shoes for some long distance walkers, rent vehicles and furnish gasoline. To make an impact nationally in Washington, D.C. we need to publicize the event, provide a sound system, permits, etc.

We need your help. Each of us can only give so much from our own pockets, but we can hold a garage sale, pass the hat at meetings or have a bake sale. We can donate a day's work earnings or forgo smoking, drinking, the movies, candy for a short period giving the saved money to the Walk. The Hiroshima/Nagasaki weekend (August 6-August 9) is a natural fund raising event. Funds could be collected at local churches, synagogues and temples. If planning begins now, such an event could be a great success.

We have no special resources except you. You, our local supporters and organizers of the Walk - the communities that link this continent together. The national Walk office serves as a facilitator and communications link between all of you. We want to do our job and do it right - that means we need your contributions.

NATIONAL ANTINUCLEAR DAY JUNE 5 "VOICES FROM THE VILLAGE SQUARE DAY"

On Saturday, June 5, 1976 people from across the country will be gathering to voice their concern about the hazards of nuclear power.

The Continental Walk Steering Committee has endorsed "Voices From the Village Square Day." The name has been taken from an Albert Einstein quote: "To the village square we must carry the facts of atomic energy. From there must come America's voice." The day is being organized by the National Intervenor, a Washington, D.C. based coalition of 156 environmental, health, labor, church and student groups. Press conferences, meetings and demonstrations showing opposition to the proliferation of nuclear power plants being forced on the American public will be held in village squares across the country.

Walk organizers are being urged, even at this late date, to coordinate activities with organizations already preparing for June 5th actions in local communities. Link the issues of disarmament and social justice with the nuclear power plant issue. People's needs and health first! Call the National Intervenor (202) 543-1642 for your local community contacts.

WALK BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Walk background papers will be rolling off the presses soon. Sorry about the delay.



Walking to Los Alamos Scientific Labs, May 12.

photo by Ed Hedemann

NEW POSTERS

Beautiful new posters with a bomb to dove graphic are now available in two sizes. The 17"x22", two color poster on 70 lb. paper is suitable for announcements and collections. The 8½"x11", one color poster on 20 lb. paper is appropriate for mass distribution. Prices listed below:

17"x22"

- .50 for 1 to 9
- .40 for 10 to 24
- .30 for 25 to 49
- .20 for 50 to 99
- .15 for 100 or more (plus postage)

8½"x11"

- .15 for 1 to 99
- .02 for 100 or more (plus postage)

NEW SIGNERS

Archbishop Robert Sanchez of Santa Fe (Arizona, New Mexico, part of Texas)

Reis Lopez Tijerina (a leader of the Chicano movement in the Southwest and founder of Alianza Federal)

NEW ENDORSING ORGANIZATION

National Indian Youth Council

WALK BANNERS/SIGNS

If you are artistic and can print well, the Walk can use your services. After almost four months on the road, the long distance walkers' banners and signs are showing signs of the elements. They need new ones. Contact the Walk office if you can help for specifications on size, materials and slogans.

MISCELLANEOUS

– The national Walk office needs volunteers to help with mailings, New York organizing, etc. If you can help, call (212) 677-5444. Let us know when you are available.

– Send us reports for the WALK NEWS. We want to be able to share your experiences and successes with the entire Walk network.

– Many, many people are receiving the WALK NEWS without subscribing. Many of you are receiving this issue for the first time because you recently signed the coupon passed out by walkers in New Mexico. We would appreciate your contributions to cover the costs of paper, printing and postage.

– Organizers along the route should secure a 16 mm sound film projector for use by the long distance walkers in local communities. If anyone can loan the long distance walkers a 16 mm sound film projector for the duration of the Walk that would be even better and muchly appreciated. Films to be shown include "We Monitor The Nuclear Base" and "Hiroshima."

CONNECTICUT AFSC SUMMER WORK PROJECT
co-sponsorship with the Community for Nonviolent Action (CNVA) and the Connecticut Coalition for the Continental Walk –

The Connecticut AFSC Summer Work Project is an eight week long learning, working, living project for six young people who will combine outdoor physical labor with political grass-roots organizing, office work and coordination (the Continental Walk) at the CNVA farm in Voluntown, CT. (July 1 - August 31, 1976). For more information; or application contact AFSC Connecticut, RD 1, BOX 494, Voluntown, CT. 06384 or call (203) 376-4098.



Rally at Robinson Park, Albuquerque, May 8

photo by Ed Hedemann



Organizer Judy Danielson & long distance walker Alison Metcalf confront Harold Agnew, Los Alamos, May 12. photo - Ed Hedemann

COLORADO ROUTE MEETS MAIN ROUTE

Los Alamos, May 12

With a civil disobedience action imminent, Dr. Harold Agnew, Director of Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories (where the bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were born) agreed to meet with the walkers.

Walkers and organizers from both the Colorado and main routes planned the night before to present a list of demands/requests to a meeting of Los Alamos administrators. Included in that list was the suggestion that the "Hiroshima" film be purchased and shown to the public at the museum—to give a better balanced view of the desirability of these weapons, acceptance of the Hiroshima appeal (calling for elimination of all nuclear weapons). However, only the public relations man was available; the rest of the officials gave us a run around for 3 hours.

When it was clear that any audience with officials in power was being avoided, the civil disobedience action was planned. Dorie Bunting from Albuquerque and Judy Danielson from Denver were to lead a contingent of about 10 into the civil disobedience action, with the rest of the walkers supporting.

After Harold Agnew was spotted entering the building, a phone call was made to his office and he finally agreed to come down and meet with the walkers. Discussion was curt, however. He was presented with the Hiroshima appeal and the Walk Call.

Earlier in the day, some walkers leafleted Los Alamos people as they went to work. Also the monks and walkers visited several classes to speak and show

the Hiroshima film. About 50 people walked from the municipal center of Los Alamos to the Labs.

The series of events which climaxed with the Los Alamos actions began on May 8 as the Continental Walk crossed the Rio Grande and entered Albuquerque. The Walk entered Robinson Park joining a rally that totaled 120 people and one "Military-Industrial Complex Monster", a paper-mache combination of B-1, Trident, etc., all rolled into one. After the rally, 50 people walked 2 miles to the University of New Mexico.

On Sunday, May 9 a community pot luck dinner drew 80 people including Reis Tijerina, a key person in the Chicano movement. Monday about 60 people walked from the University to Kirtland AFB. That evening films were shown and a letter of solidarity from the anti-nuclear weapons ship FRI was read. On Tuesday Dick Gregory's run for hunger passed through Albuquerque. With the aid of Muhammed Ali running along side a large crowd was drawn for a rally. At the rally Reverend Sato and long distance walker Tom MacLean presented the Hiroshima appeal to Dick Gregory. Later that day the Walk car caravaned off the route to Santa Fe for a community meeting, to make plans for the Los Alamos action, and join the Colorado branch. The day before the Walk left Albuquerque, the mayor of Albuquerque welcomed the Buddhist monks and received the Hiroshima appeal, but refused to sign it. The Mayor was reported to have said that he's been to Hiroshima and "they have a thing about the bomb over there". The pace of the Walk is currently 18 miles a day as it is leaving New Mexico.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Boston, May 6

Meetings have been underway to plan the start of the Boston feeder route on August 6th/7th. The barebones scenario is...

At 12 noon on August 6th at government center in Boston a press conference will be held following the arrival of the Worcester feeder route (a new link). In the evening a program on nuclear disarmament will probably be held at Faneuil Hall. Then on August 7th after walks from the suburbs have arrived at Faneuil Hall around noon the Walk will hear speeches from social change organizations along the route, join in singing, etc. The group will then depart for the Ashmont MBTA station.

Some discussion has centered on the Communal Agreement/Inner Discipline suggestions referred to in the Walk Organizing Manual. Three additional points were recommended to be considered at the New England Regional meeting May 27.

- 1) we will strive for consensus in group discussion
- 2) we will share leadership responsibilities
- 3) in recognition that the purposes and goals of the Walk are of primary importance: we agree to refrain from alcohol when the image or functioning of the Walk is at stake. We agree not to use illegal drugs. We agree that if we engage in sexual activity, we will do so sensitively and judiciously to avoid potential problems to the individuals, the group and the local community.

Among groups organizing in the Massachusetts area are the Brockton Tenants Union, the Boston Bail Fund and Fall River "For the People."

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Minneapolis, May 11

Last week several of the local Walk organizers carried around a banner "The Continental Walk supports the United Farm Workers" in a series of U.F.W. walks in Twin Cities neighborhoods. The *North County Anvil* carried an article on the Continental Walk and asked anyone who knew of local planning to contact them. We are just beginning to get into the hard work, detailed plans and contacts along the route.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia, May 17

We expect the Boston/NY Walk to enter Philadelphia on September 25 coming from Camden on the Ben Franklin Bridge, proceeding directly to the Independence Mall area for actions. Possibly a feeder walk from the Scranton-Bethlehem-Bucks County area will join us. September 26 we assume will be a rest day, and walkers will be available for church or other groups.

Local sponsors now include Philadelphia WTR/WRL, Catholic Peace Fellowship, Friends Peace Committee, Gray Panthers, WILPF and SANE.

There will be a planning meeting held Wednesday, June 9 at 518 Pine Street, Philadelphia at 7:30pm. Contact Bruce Birchard (215) 241-7230 or Meg Bowman (215) EV 7-6613 for further information.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

St. Louis, April 16

We had a great event. Holly Near sang to our audience of 300 or more — a tremendously enthusiastic, mostly women's audience. Holly agreed to do it as a partial benefit for the WALK. Seventy-five percent of the ticket sale went to us about \$450 net. We also got her a very good interview on NBC TV and good general publicity — all of which mentioned the WALK.

Apart from this, the St. Louis committee has largely been focusing on outreach into high schools/colleges. Something we will continue to do until schools close. Then we will work on getting church and community groups support.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Recently, I had the opportunity of meeting some very fine people from the 1976 Continental Walk in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I was so overwhelmed by such beautiful dedication from such a small amount of people for such a big issue.

I would like to be put on your mailing list so that I may know when and where such things will take place and how I may get involved. Enclosed is \$5.00 to help the cause. Thank you. Diane Coilson, New York.



Rev. Sato and Tom MacLean talk about Walk at Dick Gregory/Muhammad Ali rally, May 11. photo - Ed Hedemann

NEW POSTERS

Beautiful new posters with a bomb to dove graphic are now available in two sizes. The 17"x22", two color poster on 70 lb. paper is suitable for announcements and collections. The 8½"x11", one color poster on 20 lb. paper is appropriate for mass distribution. Prices listed below:

17"x22"

- .50 for 1 to 9
- .40 for 10 to 24
- .30 for 25 to 49
- .20 for 50 to 99
- .15 for 100 or more (plus postage)

8½"x11"

- .15 for 1 to 99
- .02 for 100 or more (plus postage)

NEW SIGNERS

Archbishop Robert Sanchez of Santa Fe (Arizona, New Mexico, part of Texas)

Reis Lopez Tijerina (a leader of the Chicano movement in the Southwest and founder of Alianza Federal)

NEW ENDORSING ORGANIZATION

National Indian Youth Council

WALK BANNERS/SIGNS

If you are artistic and can print well, the Walk can use your services. After almost four months on the road, the long distance walkers' banners and signs are showing signs of the elements. They need new ones. Contact the Walk office if you can help for specifications on size, materials and slogans.

MISCELLANEOUS

— The national Walk office needs volunteers to help with mailings, New York organizing, etc. If you can help, call (212) 677-5444. Let us know when you are available.

— Send us reports for the WALK NEWS. We want to be able to share your experiences and successes with the entire Walk network.

— Many, many people are receiving the WALK NEWS without subscribing. Many of you are receiving this issue for the first time because you recently signed the coupon passed out by walkers in New Mexico. We would appreciate your contributions to cover the costs of paper, printing and postage.

— Organizers along the route should secure a 16 mm sound film projector for use by the long distance walkers in local communities. If anyone can loan the long distance walkers a 16 mm sound film projector for the duration of the Walk that would be even better and muchly appreciated. Films to be shown include "We Monitor The Nuclear Base" and "Hiroshima."

CONNECTICUT AFSC SUMMER WORK PROJECT
co-sponsorship with the Community for Nonviolent Action (CNVA) and the Connecticut Coalition for the Continental Walk —

The Connecticut AFSC Summer Work Project is an eight week long learning, working, living project for six young people who will combine outdoor physical labor with political grass-roots organizing, office work and coordination (the Continental Walk) at the CNVA farm in Voluntown, CT. (July 1 - August 31, 1976). For more information: or application contact AFSC Connecticut, RD 1, BOX 494, Voluntown, CT. 06384 or call (203) 376-4098.



Rally at Robinson Park, Albuquerque, May 8

photo by Ed Hedemann

PROMOTING THE CONTINENTAL WALK THROUGH LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It has been estimated that 75% of newspaper readers read some portion of the editorial page of their local paper — more than likely the part they read is the "Letters to the Editor" column. This column is an excellent opportunity to promote the WALK in your community without even leaving your house and it doesn't cost anything. Most towns and cities with populations of less than 100,000 or so will have newspapers that print every letter they get. Larger cities are more selective but will still print your letters. This is something that one person can do on their own to promote the WALK. Some helpful hints:

1) Make your letter to the point and not too wordy. Sometimes long letters are printed but papers prefer letters of 250 words or less.

2) Try to tie in the WALK with a timely news article. This will catch the attention of the editors and the readers. One example might be tying in President Ford's veto of the bill to fund day-care centers to our inflated military budget and the arms race, and the WALK as an outlet for getting involved.

3) Type your letter single-spaced or write neatly and legibly.

4) Always include name and address.

To the Editor:

It is evident from President Ford's record-high military budget of \$115 billion that he is trying to sell us Americans false security. Our security lies not in our weapons systems, however sophisticated, but in our people. Folks have suffered because we have not disarmed; we see President Ford veto day care centers funds and cuts back or eliminates vital human needs programs while the Pentagon's share of the pie goes up and the arms race escalates to an evermore dangerous level. It is high time that we acted to restore sanity to our distorted sense of priorities.

In 1976 we can take a step in the direction of general disarmament and the fulfillment of human needs in America by joining the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice, a grassroots project supported by over 20 national peace, religious, and civil rights organizations and five members of Congress. The WALK started in California in January and will end in Washington, D.C. in October passing through hundreds of towns and cities talking to thousands of people about the need for disarmament now and a reordering of priorities to meet America's social problems. Join and support the WALK — together we can make a difference. Contact the national at: The Continental Walk, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012 or locally contact: (Local group's name and address).

Sincerely yours,
John & Jane Doe
1401 Hill St.
Columbus, Ohio

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS

LDWs need to hear from you. It can get lonely walking through the desert, hills and valleys of New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. Spirits are kept high when hearing from friends far and near. Below are mailing addresses for the near future.

6/9 Sr. M. Theresa McPhartlan
Box 686
Elk City, OK. 73644
405-928-3833 or 225-1885

6/16 Jeff Sather
1202 Windsor Way
Norman, OK. 73069
405-364-7768

6/18 c/o General Delivery
Guthrie, OK. 73044

6/22 c/o General Delivery
Tonkawa, OK. 74653

6/27 - 6/28 Fairview Mennonite House
1505 Fairview
Wichita, KS. 67023



Debbie Brown & Larry Johnson WALKing through New Mexico.
photo - Nanci Bower