

The CONTINENTAL NEWS



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Gathering for Walk vigil at City Hall Plaza, New York City, Sept. 13.

photo - Karl Bissenger

COME TO WASHINGTON OCTOBER 16-18

WHY OCTOBER 16 IS A MUST

You live in Philadelphia. Boston. Pittsburgh. Detroit. Atlanta. Why take a back-breaking all-night car ride from Chicago? Why get on a bus for the four hours from New York? Why form the car pools, why spend the money... why bother? It is easy for us to send you a letter by mail inviting you to Washington - but it is hard for you to "accept the invitation". Bodies are more difficult to move than letters. They cost more. Why not just send back a mailgram giving your full support?

Here are four reasons to come to Washington. Some may seem silly. Some are almost desperate in importance.

Reason One: You were too young to take part in the Civil Rights and Vietnam demonstrations. You have never been to Washington before to be in a mass rally and you know if you have to hitch-hike from Seattle you'll make it. (If you are past forty, jaded, and have forgotten August, 1963 or April and May, 1971, you won't understand this reason at all.)

Reason Two: You took part in the Walk *someplace* along the way, whether in Santa Cruz or Albuquerque, New Orleans or Boston, and you know

(cont. on p. 6)

GET THOSE BUSES ROLLING!

ORGANIZE A BUS AND COME TO WASHINGTON. As a fitting finale of the Walk and a beginning of the continuing movement for disarmament and social justice, we hope that many people will gather in Washington to express solidarity with the issues of the Walk. We want to show the country, the government and the press that the movement is very much alive and concerned with the human needs going unmet in our society.

In order to get people to Washington buses and car caravans must be organized. It is also important to help raise funds for those who wish to go, but cannot afford to. This should be done now.

There is already a bus organized on Long Island, N.Y. - contact Riley Bostrom at (516)979-7392. Buses will also be leaving from New York City - call (212)677-5455. Also, Don Behm at the Center for Conflict Resolution in Madison, WI., would like to know if there are enough interested folks to rent a bus. Contact him at (608)255-0479.

Please organize for buses to Washington now and let us know as soon as possible so we can determine needed parking space and hospitality.



Appalachian long distance walkers stopping for roadside lunch and conference with "Geese for Peace". photo — Maureen O'Donnell

APPALACHIA

The Appalachian route of the Continental Walk began at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, on Sept. 5 with a memorial service at the Graphite Reactor at the Oak Ridge x-10 Plant. It was here that the plutonium and uranium for the bombs dropped on Japan were made. Twenty-five people gathered and shared silence and then thoughts and readings on war and social injustice. Ten of the group began the walk at the reactor and walked into Oak Ridge to the Museum of Atomic Energy.

On Monday, Sept. 6, walkers joined the East Tennessee Peace Education Committee at the museum to leaflet and petition that the devastation of nuclear war be shown in the museum's weapons exhibit. Currently, the weapons exhibit shows the dropping of the Hiroshima bomb, and the next picture is of people cheering in the streets of New York that the war is over. The 240,000 Japanese who ultimately died as a result of the bombs is not shown. A display of photos of paintings by Hiroshima victims, brought by Barbara Reynolds of Wilmington, OH, was set up outside the museum as a proposed exhibit. Many people signed a petition to have the exhibit incorporated in the museum. It appeared that a number of people we spoke to agreed with us but would not sign the petition for fear it might affect their job with the nuclear plant.

A core of five walkers, plus three to five community folks joining each day, walked from Oak Ridge to Karns Crossroads Sept. 7, to Knoxville Sept. 8, and into Maryville Sept. 9. Each evening the local communities had potlucks and there were good discussions and the "Guns or Butter" and "Active Non-violence" slides shown.

People along the way so far have been very welcoming and often in agreement with the goals of

the Walk. Many good exchanges of ideas were had with small store owners and gas station operators along the highway. Several times these conversations were initiated by folks suggesting we 'get a job'. It was good to be able to take the time to communicate our beliefs and to listen to others ideas, fears and concerns.

Four long-distance walkers — Diane Spagh, Steve Summerford, Chip Postun and Ken Powers — left Maryville for Tremont, TN, on Friday, Sept. 10, and will travel through North Carolina and Virginia joining with the Southern route in Charlottesville, VA, and on into Washington, DC, for Oct. 15.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS WALK

The Western Massachusetts Walk concentrated on discussing local issues as it passed through the small Connecticut Valley towns and cities in late August. We focused on the dangers of the spiraling arms race and called for cuts in military spending in order to meet human needs at home. Our best defense, we said, was a strong society where human services were available to all.

During the week before the Walk, petitions which called upon the local governments to endorse the position of the U.S. Conference of Mayors — to redirect federal spending to meet local town needs rather than to support excessive and unnecessary military programs — were circulated and signatures collected. As the Walk participants passed through the towns of Montague, Greenfield, Leverett, Sunderland, Amherst, Hadley, Northampton, Holyoke, Chicopee, and Springfield, the petitions were presented to the town officers with the request that they take the resolutions to their own councils for support. The councils were then encouraged to pursue the matter further by contacting their Congresspeople. In Amherst, Northampton and Holyoke, a selectwoman and the mayors, respectively, received the petitions with enthusiastic support and will take the issues to their councils. In other towns local people will pursue the matter further, keeping in contact with the town's governing body by attending meetings and presenting them with reading material and petitions. People in Sunderland, Hadley, and Chicopee already have appointments to meet with their town council to get an endorsement of the mayors' statement. We felt that our message reached many more citizens because of the official support given by town officers.

As we passed through the towns we aligned our cause with the good projects already in progress. In Northampton we met at the Community Canning Center, a public facility encouraging people to either grow and process their own produce or to support local farmers by buying and preserving their produce. Dinner that evening was shared with the Unemployment/Employment Council. In Holyoke we affirmed the good work of Work, Inc. Each town had problems that were related to a lack of funds.

The decentralization of our Walk added to the power of our message. Each day brought forth different walkers from the local areas; only two or three people were long-distance participants until the Japanese Buddhists joined us in Holyoke, yet we had a total of 104 participants from small towns. We ended each day with a pot luck supper, the food provided by the community in which we were staying, and an open meeting and showing of "Love-joy's Nuclear War." Press coverage was very good. All the local newspapers had at least one, and usually more, supportive articles and photographs concerning our Walk. As the Walk continued south into Connecticut, we in Western Massachusetts felt very good about the convincing strength of our message and the open response that we received.



Earl Colvin and John Maddaus lead forty walkers through downtown Syracuse on the first day of the Syracuse-Cleveland feeder route.

SYRACUSE to CLEVELAND

The Syracuse to Cleveland feeder route of the Continental Walk left Syracuse on August 20th, has passed through Auburn, Seneca Falls, Canandaigua and Rochester and is now on the way to Buffalo. In Canandaigua responsibility for the Walk passed from the Syracuse Peace Council to the Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace which was followed by the Rochester Peace and Justice Education Center. The Western New York Peace Center in Buffalo and the Erie Pax Center will carry the upstate link into Cleveland Sept. 20th.

A send-off rally held in Syracuse was attended by about forty activists and observed by many workers during their lunch hours. The rally began with music and a skit that highlighted misdirected federal taxation and spending priorities. Leafletters drew attention to a disarmament display that showed the areas of human need that are neglected by defense spending.

A short description of the Walk was given by the local coordinator, Bob Russell, followed by Earl Colvin who addressed the issues of the Walk, disarmament and nuclear power in particular. Members of the Ecumenical Peace Ministry read about peace-making from the scriptures and led a responsive reading.

After these main events, about forty people walked a one mile route through downtown Syracuse and seven walked the first five miles to Liverpool.

Each evening, walkers have had their meals with local families and then conducted town meetings utilizing a slide show on Counterforce and a disarmament display to begin the discussion. Seneca Falls, a high point on the Walk to date, featured a Continental Walk booth at a local bicentennial event, a radio show, a good turnout at the evening meeting, and a group who walked into town with the long distance walkers — all the result of good local organizing.

The Walk has been physically exhausting for long distance walkers, but has been a very positive experience overall. According to John Maddaus, who walked for a week, "It gave us a chance to talk with many people we would never have met any other way. We hope to do more such outreach in the future — getting out to the smaller cities and towns of central New York."

The Walk has moved west out of the region, but many of us are already planning to be in Washington during October. It will be an excellent opportunity to share our experiences from all over the country and to express together the crying need for disarmament and social justice.

MAIN ROUTE

The main route of the Continental Walk reached Gary, Indiana, on August 29 for a rally at City Hall. Mayor Hatcher of Gary signed the Hiroshima Appeal. He is responsible for presenting a resolution on disarmament to the meeting of Democratic Mayors in Milwaukee, which was passed. Walkers left Gary and traveled through rural Indiana past the proposed site of the Bailey nuclear power plant. Local organizers arranged the releasing of black balloons with cards attached warning of the danger of nuclear radiation. The Walk arrived in South Bend where they leafletted and were met by local press.

In Elkhart, on Sept. 3, the walkers attended a dinner with folks from the Church of the Brethren and Mennonites who are trying to organize a Fellowship of Reconciliation in Elkhart.

Labor Day, Sept. 6, walkers arrived in Ft. Wayne for a fair in Friemann Park. Ten to fifteen people from the Evansville — Muncie route arrived at almost the same time. Some fifteen groups had displays and booths at the fair including a food co-op from the black community, the local PUSH chapter and a war tax resistance group. A goodly number of people attended the four hour fair. People spoke of how the Walk fit into their ongoing activism and several of the walkers spoke. One person brought a rope the length of the Trident with black flags attached to represent each warhead. The rope stretched around the entire fair area and brought attention to the issue of the Trident. That evening, seventy-five people attended a pot luck dinner at the Unitarian Meeting House for discussions and a showing of *Nixon's Secret Legacy*.

The Walk left Indiana and crossed the Ohio border making a first stop in Bluffton, Ohio. They were met by the press and walkers spoke with students from Bluffton College. The Walk will travel through Ohio and be in Toledo by Sept. 13.



THE WALK IN NEW YORK

The Boston-Washington leg of the Continental Walk arrived in New York City on Sept. 8 with a vigil at the busiest shopping intersection in the Bronx, Grand Concourse and Fordham Road. We vigiled on two pedestrian islands, one containing an Army-Air Force recruiting station and the other a Navy-Marines recruiting station. Our hosts for the night were members of the peace group at Co-Op City, site of the biggest tenant's strike which ended recently with an agreement under which the tenants will run the giant state housing project for a 6-month period.

Next day, Sept. 9, we started at the Bronx County Courthouse, walked through the South Bronx, New York's most poverty-stricken ghetto, and crossed the Harlem River into Manhattan for a noontime rally in front of an abandoned building which Fight Back, a community organization, had taken over and is rehabilitating with the aid of unemployed construction workers.

Friday, we vigiled at Columbia University, walked down Manhattan's west side and rallied at a neighborhood health center hit by cutbacks.

Saturday, some 200 persons marched to the UN and rallied there. The big surprise was the unscheduled appearance of Joan Baez, who was in the city to



Charlie King at rally at upper west side health center facing severe cutbacks in state and federal funding. photo - Bill Offenloch



Boston-Washington walker Gil Wieland greets Muriel Rukeyser at Continental Walk Block Fair in Greenwich Village, NYC.

photo - Karl Bissinger

give a concert for the Chilean solidarity struggle. Joan spoke and sang at the rally.

Sunday, hundreds of persons relaxed at a street fair in Greenwich Village for the benefit of the Walk. Much credit to Diane and Norma Becker, its chief coordinators.

Monday marked a very important stopping point of the Boston-Washington Walk - Wall Street. We vigiled there following a walk from mid-town and prior to a noontime rally at City Hall. Wall Street represents the very opposite of "disarmament and social justice": it represents super-armaments and a system of social injustice weighted in favor of the rich and against the poor.

After a day of rest on Tuesday, we began Wednesday at Times Square and walked to the George Washington Bridge and across the bridge into New Jersey. Fifteen walkers from New England and New York joined a dozen New Jersey folks on the Jersey side of the bridge for a circle of solidarity and silence. Press from New York and New Jersey recorded the event and walkers were met by New Jersey police who were there to see that walkers got safely through the heavily-trafficked New Jersey highways. Credit for coordinating the Walk in New York goes to Jed Ringel who worked overtime on it for several months.



Hiroshima Day, Wisconsin Dells, Wisc. Posters read: *Vigil and fast in remembrance of those killed in Hiroshima by atomic bombing 31 years ago today. and We call on all nations to disarm. We call on our own nation to take the first step.*

MILWAUKEE

Jack Haessley writes us that the Minn.-Wis. feeder route of the Walk through Milwaukee went well with 50-70 people participating in each event. Many close friendships were made and the Haessley children (age 3 and 6) now have a vague idea of what Japan, Peace and Walking for Justice are all about.

Milwaukee has planned a conference on *Military Spending and Economic Conversion* to be held there the same weekend as the Walk reaches Washington, Oct. 15-16. Sanford Gottlieb and Les Aspin will be keynote speakers. The conference is co-sponsored by the Methodist Task Force on Peace and Development of Peoples, Hoa Binh — a Center for Peace Education, and numerous other peace and justice organizations.

As mentioned elsewhere in the News, we'd like to encourage anyone who cannot make it to Washington for Oct. 16 to participate in a local activity such as this in solidarity with the Washington actions. The Center for Peace Education is encouraging many people to participate in the conference as a logical follow-up to the Walk. For information contact: Hoa Binh, 2243 N. 39th St., Milwaukee, WI 53208. Phone - (414) 445-9736.

SOUTHERN INDIANA

Gardner Weber, Clark Field and Bill Small walked from Evansville via Vincennes to Bloomington on the Southern Indiana route of the Walk. In all of their walking through small towns, they received good press coverage and a lot of interest was shown by the local media. August 23 in Bloomington, they leafleted students registering for classes at Indiana University.

Walkers have put together a slide show about their part of the Walk and are giving talks with it to local groups to try and organize for October 16. A pot luck

supper was held in appreciation of the support they received from people on the Walk.

BUCKS COUNTY, PA.

The Bucks County Coordinating Group for the Continental Walk will begin walking late afternoon on Tuesday, Sept. 28, on Route 313 in Fountainville and on into Doylestown for a potluck at the Doylestown Friends Meeting. At 8pm that evening there will be a showing of "Hearts and Minds" and signatures will be collected on the petition entitled "An Appeal for Reconciliation" (which calls for normalization of relations with Indochina, universal and unconditional amnesty for American war resisters and rehabilitation for wounded veterans). Walkers will continue onto Abington on Sept. 29 with a stop for a silent vigil at the Willow Grove Naval Air Base before reaching the Abington Friends. Sept. 30 they will go to Germantown and reach Philadelphia on Oct. 1.

PHILADELPHIA

The Boston to Washington route of the Walk will arrive in Philadelphia, PA. on October 1. The LEPOCO route from Bethlehem, PA, will join the Philadelphia Walk that day at JFK Plaza, where there will be a rally.

On Saturday, Oct. 2, walkers will gather again at JFK Plaza for a pilgrimage through the city. Pilgrimage stops will include the Youth Study Center, the Housing Authority where Brenda Jackson will speak, General Electric where George Lakey will speak and the Philadelphia General Hospital. Saturday evening there will be a potluck at St. Mary's Church (Hamilton Village).

The Philadelphia committee plans to present the letter from Takeshi Araki, the Mayor of Hiroshima, to Mayor Rizzo the day before the arrival of the Walk.

Walkers will leave Philadelphia on Oct. 3 at 10am to be met by walkers from Media at 61st and Baltimore Sts.

DELAWARE COUNTY, PA

The Delaware County Walk Committee will meet the Walk as it comes out of West Philadelphia at 10am Sunday, October 3. Each of the participating groups will have a banner or sign identifying themselves. The Walk will reach Media by late afternoon for an evening potluck/town meeting at the Media Friends Meeting. Elizabeth McAlister will be a featured speaker on "Feminism, Nonviolence and Disarmament". Walkers will assemble Monday, Oct. 4, at the Delaware County courthouse and walk into the city of Chester. There will be a demonstration in Chester at the Armed Forces Recruiters (jobs, not militarization), Internal Revenue Service (taxes for people's services, not H-bombs), and accentuating the positive — local day-care and health facilities. Tues., Oct. 5, the Walk will go from Chester Friends Meeting through Trainer and Lower Chichester. Farewells and a rededication to continue the nonviolent struggle will be made at the Delaware border of Route 92 and Ridge Avenue.

MARYLAND REGION

The Continental Walk group in Maryland expects to greet the walkers at the state line on October 8, as they enter from Newark, Delaware.

The route through Maryland has been planned as Route 273 to U.S. 1, which will be followed into the Baltimore city limits. Monday, Oct. 11, the Walk will end in Northern Baltimore, at Johns Hopkins University. Tuesday, Oct. 12, the walkers will meet numerous community action groups on their way to the downtown area. Wednesday, Oct. 13, walkers will head south on Highway 1, averaging 10-15 miles per day for three days to be within six miles of the Lincoln Memorial on Saturday, the 16th.

(Why, cont. from p. 1)

Washington is the final reunion of an event that meant something terribly special to you, an action that had a great integrity. You want to see those friends you met briefly and then watched as they walked on. You want to see the many others who walked in other towns and cities that you never met before and, except for this day, may never meet in your lives.

Reason Three: You know that numbers count, as well as the power of the individual human spirit. You know that Gandhi won, and King won, and Chavez is winning because they linked their singular courage and individual morality to vast numbers of people. Whether we have two thousand or twenty thousand people, you know the nation is watching to see how many Americans will be counted on that day for radical, democratic, and nonviolent social change; that people in other nations will be moved to pressure their own governments if they see Americans demanding America unilaterally move away from the nuclear holocaust.

Reason Four: You know Washington, D.C. on October 16 is far more than a reunion of those who are closing a project. It is the beginning of a long struggle to change the way we live, the way our institutions operate. It means the launching of a movement for disarmament and social change that will affect the years to come. Only rarely can we know we are celebrating something that will happen, that our voices and bodies on that day will not echo the past, but cast a light into the future. Some events commemorate our ancestors. October 16 celebrates the children not yet born and the world we want them to enter. Let others sanctify what has been — we are determined to shake the future, to make it a liberated zone for all peoples.

SIMULTANEOUS ACTIONS

We would like to encourage all Walk organizers and interested supporters who cannot make it to Washington on October 16 to organize or participate in a planned activity in your local community on that day. We already know of two such activities going on during the days the Walk will be in Washington.

October 15-16 in Milwaukee there is a conference on *Military Spending and Economic Conversion*. Sanford Gottlieb and Les Aspin will be keynote speakers. Anyone interested can contact the Hoa Binh center at the number listed in the Milwaukee report in the News.

Also, Bob Aitkin reports that a coalition of peace groups in Hawaii are planning a walk on Oct. 16. They will go from the West Lock of Pearl Harbor, where nukes are brought in by ship, to Waialeale Gulch, where they are stored. The route will follow the old truck route of the nukes which was abandoned in favor of transport by helicopter when the truck route received publicity by Hawaii peace groups. The evening of the walk there will be a rally at a nearby church.

Hopefully many thousands of people will be linked in solidarity with those in Washington on Oct. 16 in the desire for disarmament and social justice. Let us know what you have planned and where so we can put it in the next Walk News.

IN MEMORIAM

Orlando Letelier

Ronni Karpen Moffitt

Assassinated September 21, 1976
in Washington, D.C.

HOW SHALL WE ANSWER ASSASSINATION IN OUR STREETS?

Within 36 hours after the bombing that killed Letelier and Moffitt, thousands gathered in New York City near the Chilean Mission to the U.N. It was necessary to protest, and express our rage, our grief. But the widow of Orlando Letelier would prefer her husband alive to all the protests in the world. The husband of Ronni Moffitt would prefer her alive to any vengeance within his power. If a half million people had been in Washington in 1961 when the Vietnam War began, a million Vietnamese would be alive today. If a half million people had demanded in 1973 that the CIA be disbanded, Allende would still be alive today.

October 16 is the time to be heard as we come to Washington. We do not come "In Memoriam". We come to begin to change the nation. Funeral services do not raise the dead. When in the name of God shall we overturn those structures which destroyed so much of Indochina, killed so many in Chile, and set off a bomb in the streets of our nation's Capital? We have buried too many of our heroes, seen too many children die before their time. Now we begin to move beyond protest.

If nothing else had determined you to come to Washington, let it be the blood on the streets on September 21. The memorials have been held. Let us now change the nation.