

The War Protests: Proving What?

The Tide Is Changing

The rising tide of second thoughts about the war in Vietnam may soon be washed away by a backlash against recent "peace" demonstrations.

Throughout the nation it had appeared that a number of Congressmen, including Sens. Stuart Symington of Missouri and Thurston Morton of Kentucky, and several large newspapers — The Atlanta Constitution and the Miami Herald — were having second thoughts about the war in Vietnam.

But with the increasing incidence of peace demonstrations — many of which were not very peaceful — it is apparent that the American public, which, too, was beginning to doubt the Vietnam War, is now beginning to swing back into wholehearted support of the war.

Public demonstrations both in support of the servicemen in Vietnam and of the American Vietnam policy are drawing huge crowds across the country. And the number of such demonstrations is increasing.

What then is causing this backlash? It seems that many Americans are willing to go along with demonstrations as a right provided under the Constitution. But they are not willing to go along with the violence and law-breaking that accompanies many of the peace demonstrations.

There are those who participate in the demonstrations who maintain that the violence is one-sided — only the law enforcement officials are violent. But the evidence seems to say something quite different.

Perhaps one such piece of evidence is a story written by Ruth Rohrer, a journalism senior, for the University Daily Kansan. Miss Rohrer was in Washington, D.C. and observed the march on the Pentagon.

She reported: "Twenty-seven persons were injured by late afternoon; one newsman was clubbed to the ground by demonstrators when he tried to get inside the Pentagon to the press room; troops were taunted, spat upon; tear gas was used (by both sides, they said); obscenities were yelled and written upon walls and sidewalks; vegetables, water bottles, and rocks were thrown at the troops and at the massive building housing the nation's defense nerve center.

"Windows were broken and, as darkness approached, parking stakes were torn up to build bonfires. At one point, a large group of flower children simultaneously relieved their biological urges in a symbolic gesture on the Pentagon lawn.

"It became an endurance test between the troops and the demonstrators. All thoughts of peace must surely have been gone long before.

"My sympathy was with the troops, who exhibited an incredible amount of patience throughout the afternoon and evening, with those participants who had sincerely believed that the event was to be an effort for peace and with American citizens who hear some of the most beautiful words and concepts in the English language used to justify the ugliness of the day."

Likewise there seemed to be a severe disregard for the fact in the Washington demonstration.

Demonstrators contend that the demonstrations crowd was over 250,000. Yet veteran UPI reporter Merriam Smith noted that police and reporters, who are accustomed to crowds, thought 50,000 was generous.

The demonstrators contended that the discrepancy in crowd estimates was due to "hawk" publishers and fear of Johnson, Smith said.

The UPI reporter also told of one reporter who spent the night in the Pentagon parking lot with the demonstrators.

Smith quotes the reporter as saying: "I was there the whole damned night, outside with you people, and what you're describing (about the press and defecating troops) is pure fiction — it never happened."

The UPI reporter also points out a case where a demonstration leader asked for witnesses to the defecations to prepare a tape recording for submission to Washington and New York newspapers.

But none of the witnesses was willing to do so.

Thus, the American people are beginning to become disgusted with protesters' total lack of regard for the facts and their lack of regard for the laws of this nation.

And this disgust is no better echoed than in the college newspapers — almost all of them the first to grant students the right to protest.

Thus the Minnesota Daily editorializes: "Massive civil disobedience is a desperate and often effective form of social protest. But if not religiously dedicated to non-violence it provides the opportunity for far stronger police or military forces to destroy the protest."

"The New Left represent extreme political elements — the leadership readily admits to having some (although very few) Communists and Communist sympathizers in their midst. Their presence in the movement makes responsible dissent, particularly among outspoken members of Congress, immeasurably more difficult.

"Furthermore, anti-war sympathies have gained dramatically among the nation's electorate lately. But when highly-publicized violence is associated with the movement, that wide-spread support is jeopardized.

"Perhaps the peace movement in America declared war against itself last week."

Similarly the Daily Illini talked about the new violent leadership of the peace demonstrators:

"They are slowly squeezing out the people opposed to violence, and they are discrediting the work of those who still believe the way to a solution is through peaceful actions.

"The revolutionaries aren't as interested in stopping the war as they are in stopping this country. Their hero is Che Guevara who was anything but a peaceful man. And their goals are to overthrow the entire system in America."

There are those who contend that violence is necessary to get some action on a question such as the Vietnam war.

But these individuals seem to think that a complete change is going to happen overnight. And that is not the way it happens. Change is slow, and that change was apparent if one observed newspaper editorials and some members of Congress.

But that change apparently was not fast enough for the violence advocates of the peace movement. And so they have resorted to violence.

And now that small, but growing, tide of opposition to the Vietnam war (which the peace movement wanted so badly) may very well be erased by the backlash created by the peace movement's violence.

Demonstrations Rack Nation's Campuses

Collegiate Press Service

Students on seven campuses made it a rough week for recruiters from the armed services and for other organizations connected with the military.

The sit-ins and other protests are almost all over now, but the promise of disciplinary action against protesters on most of the campuses may provide the next source of controversy.

Dow Chemical Company recruiters, catalysts for the massive protests at the University of Wisconsin last week, figured in three of this week's sit-ins: that at Harvard and those at the Universities of Illinois and Minnesota.

Other targets for demonstrations were: the Navy recruiter at Oberlin College in Ohio; the CIA recruiter at the University of Colorado; a center for classified research at Princeton University and a conference of defense contractors in Detroit.

Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) members figured to some extent in all the protests, but not all protests were organized by the SDS.

On three campuses—Princeton, Oberlin and Wayne State in Detroit—police were brought from outside to deal with the students. Although it was the appearance of city police at the University of Wisconsin campus that brought thousands of otherwise uncommitted students into the protest there, the police did not have the same effect this week.

On one campus—Illinois—the protests achieved their immediate goal. After 200 of them sat-in in the doorway and corridor outside the office where Dow was recruiting, the administration cancelled the company's recruiting program there. According to a university spokesman, the action was taken "to avoid possible bodily injury and destruction of property."

DEFENSE CONFERENCE

In the Detroit protest, there was a brief outbreak of violence on Wednesday. The students, returning for a second day to protest against the Fourth Annual Defense and Government Procurement Conference (in which businessmen heard

Army and Air Force officers tell them "how to keep your share of defense business") tried to enter the building, where the conference was being held, from the rear.

They scuffled with police there and with some of the businessmen attending the conference. One demonstrator was arrested, bringing the total number of arrests for the two days to 14.

Certainly the best organized protest was the one at Oberlin, where students

knew well before hand which day the Navy recruiter was to arrive. Some of them drove out to the edge of town Thursday to meet him and escort him to the campus. There more than 100 students surrounded his car and kept him trapped inside for about four hours.

When the recruiter finally tried to drive his way out of his predicament, he succeeded only in ramming a newsman's car behind his. His was finally freed when local police and firemen

drove the demonstrators away with tear-gas and water sprayed from fire hoses.

Following is a resume of what occurred at four of the campuses:

SDS AT HARVARD

At Harvard, about 300 Harvard and Radcliffe students sat-in in the chemistry building outside the Dow recruiters' office. According to one observer, the recruiter "was effectively imprisoned there."

The protest was organized by SDS and had originally been planned as a picketing demonstration outside the building. When demonstrators arrived Wednesday morning, however, the protest became a sit-in.

About 450 students, including the heads of two major undergraduate political bodies, have turned in their bursar's cards to express complicity with the protest. A meeting of all members of the faculty had been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, to decide on disciplinary action for the protesters.

At the University of Minnesota, about 40 students jammed into the entrance of the placement office to protest the presence of a Dow recruiter there Tuesday.

Some of the students slept in a room near the president's office through the night. Others held a hunger strike that lasted until the Dow recruiter left Thursday.

No disciplinary action is planned against the Minnesota protesters.

AT PRINCETON

At Princeton 50 students blocked the entrance to a building where the Institute for Defense Analysis branch is housed. When the students refused to move away from the door and let employees in, 30 of them were arrested.

Doug Seaton, a leader of the SDS chapter at Princeton, said protests in other forms would continue.

At the University of Colorado, 30 students choked the entrance to the placement center where a CIA representative was recruiting. Their protest came close to breaking into a fist-fight with about 50 students who said they wanted to get in to see the recruiter, but campus police and a faculty member calmed the two groups.

The protesters, most of them members of SDS, had earlier tried to get the CIA recruiter to leave voluntarily.

One of the protesters explained why his group had chosen to use civil disobedience tactics: "Because we feel dishonesty, secrecy and totalitarian tactics have nothing to contribute to the educational enterprise, we are protesting their use of our campus facilities."

SDS Sparks Most Campus Protests

(Editor's Note: The following is an opinion analysis of last week's nationwide campus war protests)

By Richard Anthony Collegiate Press

On the face of it, the wave of protests against recruiters and military projects that has swept college campuses in the past two weeks would appear to be a direct outgrowth of the Oct. 21 Mobilization. In fact, however, the two are connected only in the sense that both are working against U.S. military undertakings.

The timing of the protests is largely a result of the fact that Dow Chemical and Armed Forces recruiters have been on the campuses where the protests have occurred.

As to the reason for the protest, if there is any, one event that may be singled out as their cause it is not the Mobilization but the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) national convention last July.

At that convention delegates decided to direct their efforts this year toward reducing military involvement on the university campuses. The idea of making this effort did not originate at the convention. As Mike Spiegel, national secretary of the organization, admits, "We really decided after the fact. There was a lot of this kind of activity going on last year on various campuses."

It is also true that SDS has not been the sole impetus behind each of the campus protests of the past two weeks. On the other hand, SDS members have been involved to some extent in all of them and have organized some of them.

At the convention the politics voted on did not include tactical questions. According to Spiegel, questions of strategy and tactics are left up to the individual SDS chapters. It was probably inevitable that the tactics would be in the direction of sit-ins, however, because SDS has stressed the need for militant action against military involvement on campuses.

Spiegel said that militant action has been emphasized because past protests have shown it to be the most successful method of raising the issues that SDS wants to raise among university people at large.

"When students are willing to take militant action," says Spiegel, "Other peo-

ple on campus see that this group takes its goals very seriously and then they start to think about the problems involved."

Another result of militant action has been the increased use of outside police, as in the protests at the University of Wisconsin and at Brooklyn College. For SDS the introduction of the police can be advantageous but it is not always an unmitigated blessing. According to Spiegel it can turn the controversy away from the question of military involvement on campuses to that of police brutality. "We think the issue of civil liberties tends to obfuscate the real issues," says Spiegel.

As for the question of the recruiters' freedom of speech, SDS says the freedom is not at issue, the issues being rather whether universities and their students should contribute to the country's military efforts. It is the freedom of speech issue, however, that is the sticking point for the National Student Association (NSA). Al Milano, an NSA national staff member, says that the organization supports freedom of speech on campus for recruiters as for anyone else.

As a result of NSA's freedom of speech stand, the organization has been obliged to steer clear of some of the recent protests. Although NSA representatives aided student protest leaders at Brooklyn College and at Wisconsin, they could not assist at Harvard or at Oberlin, where students blocked off the recruiters from interviews.

"We understand the frustrations that lead students to these kinds of protests," Milano says, "but we have to be consistent about free speech. What we are urging is that students be given a voice in things like who recruits on campus."

For the present, however, NSA will probably not be able to take a hand in many of the protests that seem bound to occur. There are, according to one SDS estimate, approximately 900 colleges and universities that have Defense Department of CIA grants and many of those will be the targets of protests during the coming year.

Whatever comes out of the year, there is little question that SDS will emerge as the most-hated student organization in the country's history — with most of the ill-will coming from two sources — the federal government and college and university administrators.

CAMPUS OPINION: Woe To You, Senate

Dear Editor:

MIDST the rumor of tainted lives

One in the crowd was seen to strive.

HE needed not ferocious note

providing but a humble throat.

TIS of grace and good I sing.

TRUTH be summoned—take the wing!

Hail PARTY FOR NEW POLITICS, new King of Student Power! But wait PNP—some of us in the ASUN Trojan horse see our ears.

According to the Nebraskan (Sept. 27) one of you quipped, "Only about five senators ever say anything and the others listen well." Well, a few of us are silent for a purpose—that purpose being the lack of a reason to speak.

The issues that Senate has concerned itself with this year needed few of the comments a couple of Senate's "orators" felt necessary. The constituents may be laughing at Senate, but a few senators are laughing too!

Senate needs issues and some "speaking" senators need finesse, tact and sense. The Mickey Mouse in Senate comes not from the silently cognizant Sudzy Welps, but from the repeatedly unnecessary comments by the Skill Phlowin's.

The Silent Several therefore plea for definite motions from our constituents. Cough them up and they will be reargued on the Senate floor.

It had been hoped this first "Camelot" would be comical, for after all Sen-

ate, among other things, is comical. If Camelot appears ridiculous as it may to many, it is because that which it strongly believes in is seen in the same light. If little merit comes from one encounter, can't much more come from several. A hope at least must exist—the question: Who will provide it? Good luck PNP!

Camelot

He had much to live for, but he also had a lot to die for.

And I'll stand behind my friends and my friends and continue to give them the support I gave him.

Sue Miller

Rubber Stamp

Dear Editor:

Recent letters from Greeks in defense of the present rush system (such as Steve Burns' letter of Oct. 25) all seem vaguely to apply but avoid many important factors. Since I am sure Mr. Burns and colleagues will not agree with various aspects of this letter, I feel I should qualify myself for this response by pointing out that I spent four years as a Greek and am now president of my fraternity alumni.

We can only analyze what the Greek system means in terms of total education in which a personality emerges from the constant dictation of parental authority to become a unique individual with new fears, hopes and ambitions, based not on dictation, but rather on his own unique experiences and newly acquired attitudes.

That fact, as stated by Mr. Burns and so many others, that "as a fraternity pledge I find I have no choice but to study" expresses the most insidious characteristic of the Greek system. It is not easy to adjust to one's new surroundings, new faces and new responsibilities.

Did he die for these so-called "American patriots" who are protesting, rioting and demonstrating against the draft and the Vietnam war? Those energetic BOYS should use their energy for better purposes.

My guy was proud of America and what it stands for and he died fighting for his beliefs.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Was his young life wasted? Maybe my guy was young, but his lifetime was not wasted. A life can-

not be measured by how long he lived it; it was how he lived it.

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By Dan Dickmeyer

I thought sure that this year if I let my hair curl over my ears, scuffed up my Hush-Puppies some more, and wore my "Johnson is a no-mind" button that those nice young men would leave me alone. Just to be sure as I passed through the Union on the way to the New Left security "womb" behind the Crib I pressed my body close to the wall.

"Please, God," I prayed, "don't let me have to resort to violence." The rising voices screamed over my head as I passed the first booth. "Protect me, dear God."

And then . . . zap . . . I was hit . . . for the twenty-first time this year. A hand grabbed my arm, another tore at my belt loops, restraining me, and another jammed a fistful of paper into my mouth. A polite voice said: "Oh, excuse me, would you like to buy a ticket to Kosmic Klan."

"Oh, God, where did I go wrong?" I mumbled under my breath, as I proceeded a few more steps. Someone threw their body at my legs and then I was hit with a flame thrower and a polite voice said: "Oh, excuse us, would you like to . . ."

"All right you capitalistic money grubbers — what did you ever do for this campus or me?" I lashed into them.

"Oh, excuse us," they retorted pacifistically (darn them) "but we are accomplishing the purpose of self-perpetuation."

"Everyone knows there isn't such a thing as perpetual motion," I said.

"We have disproved that," the head Kleagle of the Klan said, again politely. "We sell tickets to raise money to buy chalk to write obscene things on buildings

and sidewalks to advertise our shows which culturally enrich the Lincoln community to make a name so we can sell more tickets . . ."

"Have you ever just given any of your money or time away, hippie-like, say to a poverty area, a scholarship or an orphanage?"

"Excuse us, would you like to buy a ticket to . . ." the Kleagle retorted mechanically.

"Hah, I never did think you guys had anymore purpose than a group with just one more 'K' in its initials. The analogy is clear. These so-called workers are victims of your racist tactics trying to buy their freedom into your upper-class society by selling tickets and shining shoes."

Sobbing, the two Klan workers standing beside the Klan Kleagle released their grip, and looked me in the eyes. "Yes, suh, it's true. Emancipate us. Take this chalk from our hands and free us from the Kleagles."

I had been too cruel. After all, they could not do anything about their basically subservient nature. I reassured them:

"Rest easy, chill'en, your redeemer is coming Saturday night in the form of the guardian of morals — the Lincoln Police force. The Kosmic Klan production will be raided under authority of the re-activated 1936 statute prohibiting the wearing of apparel of the opposite sex in public places. When the Kleagle's give their leg shots they'll be arrested and you'll be freed."

"Praise be Lawd," said the workers and bowed to kiss my feet and straighten my peace button.

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