



March protests escalated air war



Photos by Bill Ganzel

by Bob Latta

More than 200 people followed the route of the May 1970 march to the state selective service office Thursday afternoon in protest of the increased air war in Vietnam. The 1970 march ended in the arrest of the "Lincoln 7" but the Thursday demonstration was peaceful and no arrests were made.

The demonstrators did make one detour from the usual route when they turned right on 12th street to go to Congressman Charles Thone's district office. Apparently the police were not expecting this as they tried to hold the crowd back momentarily.

The Thone office was locked and dark. It was three p.m. On the door was a welcome sign and an American flag.

The group then proceeded to the Terminal Building where they were greeted by more police, and a small group from the Young Americans for Freedom, (YAF) who were holding a "counter-demonstration."

The YAF people had a bull horn and a shouting match between the "anti-war demonstrators" and the "counter-demonstrators" followed.

The rally organizers then chose four people to go to the Selective Service office and talk to Col. Lee Liggett director of the State Selective Service. The four were Jay Pashalek, Tom Headley, Leah Johanson and 'Yoko'.

When Liggett was asked by Headley if the Selective Service law is moral, Liggett replied, "Any federal

employee who is hired to administer a law passed by Congress cannot allow morals to have anything to do with his job."

Headley asked Liggett for his personal opinion. Liggett declined to respond to the question. Liggett and the demonstrators agreed that neither was going to change their position.

Yoko and Johanson became discouraged with the conversation and urged Headley and Pashalek to leave with them.

When they left the office a Lincoln Police detective asked the four if he could talk to them. They refused. He then told an officer to take pictures of the four as they were leaving, which he did. Yoko and Johanson covered their faces and were crying when they joined the crowd in front of the building.

About 10 minutes later the crowd headed back toward the campus. Half of the crowd stopped by the Thone headquarters for a while before dispersing. They left a copy of the Lincoln Gazette on the door. It read in large letters: "Apathy is killing you and others," and was signed "your constituents."

The rally started in the Union main lounge at 2 p.m. At the other end of the lounge a movie was being shown which made listening difficult. The rally audience was estimated to be about 250.

Nick Meinhardt, coordinator for the Nebraskans For Peace, gave the crowd details concerning the nature of the bombs used in Vietnam.

"The United States is the leading guilty country in war crimes at the present time," he said. He maintained that American leaders could be

prosecuted for war crimes under the same rules which were used to convict Nazis in Nuremburg.

Meinhardt was contested by Mike Hilgert, a student in the Air Force ROTC.

"Could you protest the war if you lived in North Vietnam?" he said. "The invading North Vietnamese are being protected by people like you."

Stephen Rozman, former UNL political science assistant professor, received a warm welcome from the crowd and responded with a clenched-fist salute.

He said the situation now is worse than the May 1970 student strike. Rozman was not rehired for his participation in that event.

"The U.S. is on a collision course with the Soviet Union. The USSR has blinked in most confrontations so far but when they don't blink there is no telling what is going to happen."

"American leadership is gradually finding out they can not buy everybody. The situation is getting worse, but Nixon is still playing 'business as usual,'" he said.

When asked about his reaction after the event, rally organizer Ron Kurtenbach replied, "Is the war over?"

"I am hoping students are concerned enough to conduct a strike of classes Friday," he added.

Inspector Robert Sawdon of the Lincoln Police Department said the rally went about as he expected.

"There were no arrests and no problems of any consequence. I wasn't displeased at all," he said.

Language requirement revision plan falters

The faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences met Thursday afternoon but again failed to take final action on a proposal which would change the college's group requirements. The meeting, attended by more than 250 people, was a continuation of a discussion of the requirements which began last week.

The proposal under consideration was submitted by the college's curriculum committee and contains both a majority and minority report.

Both reports recommend elimination of the freshman English requirement. The minority report would also change the foreign language requirement.

The majority report, which originally called for elimination of the language requirement, was amended to retain the requirement. However, the

amendment gives the student an additional option. The student may "test out" of a language by passing a proficiency test equivalent to the material covered in four semesters of college study.

The minority report, which has not yet been discussed by the body, would change the current requirement and offer the student a three-way alternative.

A student could "test out" of a language by passing a proficiency test; complete a nine-hour block of courses in foreign language or culture, plus a course in applied linguistics; or complete the fourth semester of a foreign language.

The amendment, introduced by Michael Meyer, professor of history, passed 109 to 74.

Prior to the vote, discussion centered around the necessity of retaining the requirement.

Stephen Hilliard, associate professor of English, said the faculty is caught "in a conflict between ideals." He said he had benefited from the study of foreign language, but many students do not.

Ivan Volgyes, associate professor of political science, criticized Hilliard.

He said demands on a college student are different than they were 50 years ago, but "if students are in search of a vocation they should go to Milford (Technical Training School)."

The faculty will meet again at 3:30 p.m. Friday to continue discussing the requirements.