

NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL NO-NUKES PRISON SUPPORT COLLECTIVE

A SUPPORT NETWORK FOR JAILED AND IMPRISONED ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIVISTS

No. 8

Oct. 30, 1981

W.I.P.P. Opposed

The Waste Isolation Pilot Project, or WIPP, is the government's best hope for a quick-fix to the problems posed by nuclear waste. At a site near Carlsbad, New Mexico, the Department of Energy is drilling 6 by 12 foot "test" holes to determine the suitability of the underground salt formations there for the long-term storage of both low-level transuranic wastes and high-level military wastes. During the Carter administration, local opposition and the assurance that New Mexico would have veto power over a decision to site waste there kept the D.O.E. at bay. For a time, the WIPP project seemed as good as dead. All of that changed two days after Reagan took office, when Energy Secretary Edwards announced plans to go ahead with a full-scale repository at Carlsbad. The Government claims the current drilling is only to test the site, yet the government is relying on WIPP to be a working model, complete with waste, by 1988.

A request for an injunction to halt the drilling was denied by a federal judge last September 1. Over Labor Day weekend, more than 150 people gathered for films, workshops, community outreach and a balloon release. On Labor Day, September 7, twenty-one members of the Coalition for Direct Action at WIPP sat in at the desert site and were arrested for trespass. Also arrested on the same charges were eight members of the news media.

Of the twenty-one, one man, Craig Simpson, plead no contest and received a sentence of two days in jail and \$50 fine. He refused to pay the fine, and after seven days in jail, was asked to come back to his job. He paid the remaining portion of the fine and was released. The other twenty were tried, along with one of the newsmen, on October 7. On October 8, they were all convicted of trespass, and sentenced to thirty days in jail plus \$250 fine. Their original property bond was declared unacceptable for use as an appeal bond, and all were immediately locked up. Four hours later, a second judge ruled that the property must still be accepted as the appeal bond, and all were released. They are now free. Lawyers for the twenty-one are appealing only the sentence, because it is much harsher than the \$50 fines handed down to the seven other media people who had gone to trial earlier.

Letters of support and requests for more information about WIPP and the opposition to it can be directed to the Coalition for Direct Action at WIPP; 106 Girard SE, 121C; Albuquerque, NM 87106; (505)268-9557.

White House

Peter DeMott, #10891; Box 1000; Lewisburg, PA 17837, sentenced to six months for parole violation as a result of his June arrest at the White House, has been placed in segregation at Lewisburg Federal Prison because of his refusal to repair human targets at the prison shooting range, which he had been ordered to do.

George Veasey; Washington D.C. Jail; 1901 D St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003, whose six month sentence for the June pray-in at the White House was reported in our last issue, was convicted again, along with four others, for pouring blood at the White House on April 15, Tax Day, 1981. The five were convicted of destruction of federal property and unlawful entry. George took sentencing immediately, receiving two concurrent 90-day terms, to be served consecutively to his present sentence. The other four, Mike Miles, John Sheils, Karl Smith, and Sally Kearsley are to be sentenced on November 19.

Theresa Guisti has been released, after serving a 90-day sentence for the April Exorcism at the State Department.

contents

PAGE 1	WIPP OPPOSED
	WHITE HOUSE ACTIONS
PAGE 2	INSIDE AND OUT
	ARMS BAZAAR
	LIVERMORE, NEVERMORE
	DIABLO CANYON
PAGE 3	HIROSHIMA DAY ACTIONS
	PRISON LIT REVIEW
	LEONARD PELTIER UPDATE
PAGE 4	IN MEMORY OF CARL HARP
	FUTURE ACTIONS
	-TRIDENT COMMISSIONING
	-WOMEN'S PENTAGON ACTION
PAGE 5	LETTERS
PAGE 6	NNNPSC-WHO WE ARE,
	WHAT WE DO

Inside & Out

In addition to those mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, we know that the following people are still being held in prison for anti-nuclear actions:

PLOWSHARES EIGHT

Elmer Maas; Rockview SCI; Box A; Bellafonte, PA 16823 (1 1/2-5 years). Carl Kabat; (same prison as Elmer); (3-10 years). John Schurchardt; Western SCI; Box 9901; Pittsburgh, PA 15233; (3-10 years).

Philip Berrigan has been released on bond pending appeal, so he can be at home with his wife, Elizabeth McAlister, for the imminent birth of their first child.

PANTEX

Larry Rosebaugh; 11386-077; MCC; 71 W. Van Buren St.; Chicago, IL 60605; (1 year). Ladon Sheats; 11388-077; Box 7; Terminal Island, CA 90731; (1 year).

Catholic Bishop L. T. Mathiesen of Amarillo has issued a call for employees at Pantex to quit their jobs "and seek peaceful pursuits". Larry Rosebaugh reports that ten other Texas bishops have joined in this call.

ROCKY FLATS

Peter Jamieson; 16956-013; Box H; Florence, AZ 85232 (4 months) and Ron Boyer; FPC Box 1000; Leavenworth, KS 66048 (4 months), arrested on July 4 at Rocky Flats, are due to be released in early November.

Arms Bazaar

Fifty-one people were arrested on September 16 at a protest against the Air Force Association's annual "Arms Bazaar" in Washington, D.C., and charged with "disorderly congregating". The Arms Bazaar is an annual affair where the latest military hardware, nuclear and conventional, is displayed and marketed like so many crafts and farm implements at the state fair. Previous years' protests in various host cities have driven the Air Force Association to the relative sanctuary of Washington, D.C., for their bizarre bazaar. Eight people, all with previous protest records in D.C., were sentenced to jail terms which they are serving on the weekends. Six served fifteen days, and the remaining two got thirty days each. Another four of those arrested plead not guilty, and their trial has been continued until December 8.

As long as the Air Force Association continues to sponsor these shows, the "Campaign to Stop the Arms Bazaar", c/o Sojourners; 1309 L St. NW; Washington, D.C.; 20005; (202)737-2535, will continue their protest against these hucksters of holocaust.

Livermore, Nevermore

On the morning of July 3, 1981, two women and four men jumped out of a Volkswagen van at the University of California's Nuclear Weapons Laboratory in Livermore, CA.

Diablo Canyon

The blockade of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California captured headlines across the nation for several days in September. But once again, the utility company's ineptitude took the day and has effectively delayed the loading of nuclear fuel into the plant for a few more weeks. As the last of those participating in the blockade left the area, Pacific Gas and Electric announced that plans for the quake-resistant supports of cooling pipes had been confused, leaving, in effect, one reactor properly supported and the other inadequately braced against the likelihood of severe earthquake.

By the latest count, 1953 arrests were made during the course of the blockade. Of these, about 1300 entered no contest pleas and were sentenced, generally, to four days in jail with credit for time served. Because arraignments were not always held within the 48 hour limit required by California law, some people ended up serving more than four days. Non-residents of the county who refused to agree to a P.R. bond stipulation that they not return to the blockade site were held for up to seven days before being released when the stipulation was dropped and unconditional P.R. bonds were being issued to everyone. In this case, bail and jail solidarity among the women and men paid off. One judge began issuing only unconditional P.R. bonds after only four days of protest and arrests, and the rest of the judges soon followed suit when it became apparent the protesters involved were not anxious to make any compromises.

Some people, known as 'recyclers', were arrested again after being released the first time, and at least one man and one woman received and served additional 14-day sentences for the second offense, plus being fined \$300 each. Finally, about 500-600 people are planning a group trial where they plan to raise a defense of necessity. About 10 others will be handling their own defense in court, and a few plan to be represented by their own attorney or a public defender.

For the future, civil disobedience is being considered as part of an action at PG&E's main office in San Francisco next spring. For more information, and to express your support for those arrested, please write to Abalone Alliance/Diablo Project Office; 452 Higuera St.; San Luis Obispo, CA.

Halted by security guards (the lab had been notified of the action in advance) just beyond the "blue line", they sat down and blocked the entrance. They were removed three times before finally being arrested. Following their refusal of a citation release, the six were taken to the Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center where they spent the July 4th weekend.

This is apparently the first act of civil disobedience at the lab, which claims the neutron bomb as its proudest achievement in nearly three decades of nuclear weapons

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Hiroshima Day Actions

Los Angeles

During the Aug. 6-9 Hiroshima/Nagasaki anniversary, four people leafletted workers at Rockwell's Western Headquarters in El Segundo, CA. They are Chuck Teixeira, Jose Oaxaca; (Sr.) Mary Rice, S.S.L., and Catherine Morris. For leafletting on Rockwell property, the four were arrested and spent the night in jail. All refused personal recognizance bonds, were arraigned the next afternoon and then released. Two received time served (two days) and no probation; the other two received time served (two days) plus two years probation, applicable only on returns to Rockwell property. Letters of support can be sent to Los Angeles Catholic Worker; 632 N. Britannia St.; Los Angeles, CA 90033.

Prison Lit Review

Terry Messman-Rucker, who was released last July 2 from a federal work camp in Boron, CA, after serving a 6-month sentence for trespass at a S.A.C. command center in Montana, sent us the following in letters written while he was still incarcerated:

"I think that your review of prison literature is an excellent way to begin a dialogue on the learning experience of imprisonment. Prison teaches poverty and patience, humility and hope--a very humble hope indeed."

In this vein Terry offers a number of short reviews of books written by those who spent time in prison. One of these is Jailed for Freedom, by Doris Stevens (1920) of which he writes:

"An absolutely riveting account of the 1917-1919 Suffragist movement. The feminist resisters endured harassment by abusive crowds, police brutality, degrading jails and workhouses, hunger strikes and forced feedings. Essential roots for the modern resister. The suffragist movement was a triumph of conscience and courage."

Terry elaborates in his second letter:

"The book will sound shallow, repetitious and at other times self-righteous, but it still has valuable lessons for the peace movement:

- More militancy is called for, not less.
- People must be willing to be arrested time and time again.
- Pacifists must begin to persevere in their resistance inside jails, whether that takes the form of fasts or organizing inmates or non-cooperation.
- The suffragist movement succeeded, and there is no reason not to emulate their example. Instead of trying to provide a light in the darkness, we must set our sights on banishing the darkness of mega-violence and expect to win."

Further reviews of prison literature will be carried in succeeding issues of this newsletter as space permits.

Cambridge

On Hiroshima Day, August 6th, four members of the Boston area Ailanthus Group were arrested for praying in a courtyard at the Draper Laboratory in Cambridge, MA. Draper produces nuclear missile guidance systems. One of the four, Paul Dooley, was scheduled to have his case heard on October 21. The other three, Jean Holladay, Grace Carson and Paul Hood were sentenced to 30-day terms, and released from prison on Sept. 25. The Ailanthus Group has been vigiling at the lab on Monday mornings for the past two years.

Leonard Peltier

Leonard Peltier; Box 1000; Marion, IL 62959, is currently serving two life sentences at the Marion Federal Prison for allegedly killing two FBI agents during a government seige on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota in June of 1975. (NNNPSC #4) He was convicted in 1977 on admittedly false affidavits. While in prison, the authorities have twice hired people to arrange his death. A number of his supporters, inside of prison and out, have been killed over the years involving suspicious circumstances.

Although not specifically an anti-nuclear protester, Leonard is in prison for active resistance to covert government and corporate efforts to wrest control of the uranium-rich Black Hills of South Dakota from the hands of the Lakota Sioux Indians, whose reservation encompasses most of the Hills. We mention his case because the struggles of American Indians to retain control of their treaty-guaranteed lands is inseparable from opposition to uranium mining and nuclear technology. Leonard's case is certainly not an isolated one, but rather symbolic of dozens of Indians of many tribes who have been imprisoned or killed for their efforts to keep "native lands in native hands".

Peltier's attorney is currently working to win a re-trial for Leonard, based on thousands of pages of government documents which indicate gross misconduct and falsification of government evidence. Any retrial would be held in front of Judge Paul Benson, in Fargo, North Dakota. Benson gave Peltier his current sentence. The federal government is reportedly intimidating Benson by asserting that Peltier's supporters want to kill him, though no evidence for such a plot exists.

For more information, please contact Leonard Peltier Defense Committee; Box 1492; Rapid City, South Dakota 57709.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

design. The ad hoc Livermore-Neversmore Group; 2110 1/2 Ashby Ave.; Berkeley, CA 94705 94705 (415) 841-7994 is beginning to organize affinity groups for a continuing campaign of direct resistance/blockade of the lab, starting as soon as January, 1982. Please contact them directly for more information.

In Memory



Carl Harp has been killed. The determined prison activist, whose fine book, Love and Rage, Entries in a Prison Diary, was recommended on these pages some months ago, was found hanging in his cell at the Walla Walla State Prison in Washington, his wrists slashed, last September 5. His wife, Susan, and a close friend have denounced the suicide note attributed to Carl as a fraud. The coroner's inquest held October 14 in Walla Walla was "a real joke-a sick one" in the words of Susan Harp. The coroner's wife conducted the hearing, Susan Harp's attorney was not permitted to question witnesses, and jury members greeted the guards testifying on a first-name basis during the recess.

Carl's death came to us as a shock, because he has been very supportive of NNNPSC's efforts from the beginning. Carl's commitment to prisoner's rights and the need for life-affirming action in the face of a death dealing state was truly inspirational. One of the affinity groups at the Diablo Blockade, upon learning of his death, named themselves "Love and Rage" in Carl's memory.

Carl's wife and supporters are protesting the murder, demanding a fuller investigation, and are considering a "wrongful death" suit against Washington State. They could use help with letter writing and funds. Please write for more information to United Family and Friends of Prisoners; Box 22094; Seattle, WA 98122.

Love and Rage, Entries in a Prison Diary by Carl Harp remains highly recommended reading for people concerned about the reality of prison in America. \$3.95 from Pulp Press; 3868 MPO; Vancouver, BC; Canada.

Revolution:

We join because we believe.
We leave because we are disillusioned.
We come back because we are lost.
We die because we are committed.

CARL HARP

future ACTIONS

Trident

The first of the nation's Trident submarine fleet, the USS Ohio, is due to be delivered to the Navy on October 31, and receive its commission in a ceremony scheduled for Veterans' Day, November 11. Connecticut peace groups have come together each Saturday for the past month to vigil at the Electric Boat shipyards in Groton, CT, where the sub is manufactured.

The groups are planning their own gathering, "An Affirmation of Life," for the day the Ohio is delivered. Then, on Veterans' Day, civil disobedience is planned to protest the commissioning of the sub. The final Saturday vigil and demonstration of this series will be November 14, when Electric Boat launches the third Trident, the USS Florida.

For more information about these demonstrations and participation in the C.D. action, please call Pat at (203) 789-1662, or Tina (203) 789-2137 in New Haven, CT.

Women Return to the Pentagon

On November 15 and 16, Sunday and Monday, women will gather once again in Washington D.C. for the second Women's Pentagon Action. The first day will be spent attending workshops, and exchanging ideas and information. The second day, some of the women will creatively engage in non-violent civil disobedience. They will confront the Pentagon, demonstrating stages of mourning, rage, empowerment and defiance. To demonstrate their defiance, they will non-violently attempt to block the doors that lead into the Pentagon, recognizing the daily war the men in power working there impose on all our lives.

Last year, November 16 and 17, 1980, marked the first Women's Pentagon Action. Over 2000 women attended, and 160 women were arrested (see NNNPSC #2). And as is written in the Unity Statement of the Women's Pentagon Action, "We will not allow these violent games to continue. If we are here in our stubborn thousands today, we will certainly return in the hundreds of thousands in the months and years to come."

For more information, please contact Women's Pentagon Action; 3601 Locust Walk; Philadelphia, PA 19104 (215) 386-4876.

Interested in keeping tabs on the growing draft resistance movement? Resistance News is a publication of the National Resistance Committee; Box 42488; San Francisco, CA 94142. Top notch coverage, subscriptions \$5. The Committee hopes you'll support your local draft resistance group first, and then subscribe.

Letters

Last June we received the following letter which we felt raised some important issues concerning age/lifestyle, non-violent direct action, and the fear of prison experience. Readers are invited to respond:

June 28, 1981

Dear Friends,

In general I like the emphasis of NNNPSC. You have avoided the tone of special pleading for prisoners you support, and focused instead on encouraging them to persist and for others to join them.

Still, I think a few exaggerations have crept into your thinking. A symptom is the word "deep" used to describe the religious faith of activists in jail. (editorial, #6) It would be better to avoid praising or comparing the religion of activists, many of whom are young, and some of whom, we can guess from previous examples, will no longer hold such "deep" convictions after a few years.

Would our movement not be larger if activists could be motivated by "ordinary" or "traditional" religious faith, beyond those few with "deep" faith?

I wonder about the "disruption of our 'normal' lives" as the main reason given for avoiding civil disobedience. That may be true for those of us with children, etc. But I have the impression the majority of activists tend to be too young for such responsibilities. The objection I have heard most often is disruption of education or career. But in my opinion, the more true and basic reason, in all age groups, is personal fear of the jail experience.

Some of the anti-prison rhetoric feeds this fear. Bad as most large prisons are, we need to keep our perspective of global and historical trends. Compared with those, our jail sufferings are mild indeed. And then, we do not really have an alternative to offer society for maintaining property and security. Until we do, our movement cannot be acceptable to the huge majority of Americans when we say that prisons should be abolished.

On the other hand, articles on prison

sometimes emphasize the great inner benefits experienced by certain strong and remarkable resisters. This can be misleading to many ordinary resisters, whose motives and ability to respond creatively in prison are less exalted than the Berrigans'.

I would rather we talked about jail as an inconvenience we accept or embrace, as the necessary position to achieve dialogue and confrontation, rather than in terms of heroic personal sacrifice. Most of us, after time in jail, will feel more comfortable if we are not regarded as heroes. Furthermore, at this stage of our movement, I don't see the function of resistance so much as bringing about reconciliation, healing, synthesis, or embodying the democratic will of the people. Rather, our role is to raise the sense of urgency about nuclear issues, to convince the public that these issues require more serious study and concern.

Arthur Harvey

While we recognize that an emphasis on the brutality of the prison experience might feed a person's fear of jail, we try to balance that view with some personal accounts of jail. It is probably true that for many activists, a fear of jail is the prime factor against choosing civil disobedience as a form of protest. Our society cultivates this fear of imprisonment as a principle means of social control. If the knowledge of jail life and the experience gained in prison by those who've done any kind of time is shared with others, then this fear can be tempered, and the ranks of peaceful, direct resisters will grow. And it is certainly true that our jail sufferings in this country, as anti-nuclear activists, are mild compared to those inflicted in other societies, in other times, and upon the half-million other Americans who are this day unwillingly kept in cages.

Resisters who've been jailed should take the time to share their thoughts and feelings with supporters and friends in their community. Such a sharing of fears, expectations and experiences can strengthen a group's commitment to supporting each other as the level of resistance grows. And clearly, it must. If you can, please also send a letter to NNNPSC, and we can pass these perspectives on through the network. We are especially interested in jailhouse commentary from activists who do not find jail to be as liberating or strengthening an experience as some have described on these pages.

____ I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NNNPSC NEWSLETTER

____ I CAN HELP COORDINATE SUPPORT ACTIVITY IN MY AREA

____ I CAN KEEP NNNPSC INFORMED OF LOCAL ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIONS AND JAILINGS

____ I WOULD LIKE TO PLEDGE \$____ PER MONTH TO SUPPORT NNNPSC

____ I WOULD LIKE TO CORRESPOND WITH PRISONERS OTHER THAN RADIOACTIVISTS

____ HERE IS MY DONATION OF \$50 \$20 \$10 \$5 \$____

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE.....ZIP.....

PHONE NUMBER.....

PLEASE RETURN TO:

NNNPSC
BOX 1812
MADISON, WI 53701

NNNPSC Who We Are, What We Do

The National No-Nukes Prison Support Collective is a support network for jailed and imprisoned anti-nuclear activists. With information and funds provided by subscribers-members, we publish this Newsletter, which (we hope) provides comprehensive information about the arrests and jailing of anti-nuclear activists around the nation. People receiving the Newsletter are asked to write letters of support to those behind bars, and, when necessary, letters protesting the treatment and conditions of confinement to appropriate authorities.

Our goals include:

- Fostering a wider public awareness of imprisoned nuclear resisters, their motivations and their actions, through both movement and straight media.
- To build a link between the anti-nuclear movement and the prison movement, with the aim of educating radioactivists about the daily destruction of lives in the prisons of this country.

In any significant movement for social change, many committed individuals are jailed or imprisoned. In jail, they are physically isolated from their supporters and their own resistance activity is limited. Support for the imprisoned activist is essential to the success of the movement for a nuclear-free future.

To continue this work, we need donations for postage, printing and a few long distance phone calls. The Newsletter is free, and all labor is volunteered. We just want to get the word out, and help others show their support.

If you are interested in active support of jailed resisters, primarily through letter-writing, please let us know. A coupon for this purpose is included inside.



NATIONAL NO-NUKES
PRISON SUPPORT COLLECTIVE
BOX 1812
MADISON, WI 53701



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED