

Q - W - G WALK

MEMBERS WEAKENED BY FAST

14 members of the Quebec-Washington-Guantanamo Walk for Peace were arrested in Albany, Georgia, on December 23 as they followed their scheduled route through the business section of town. Police Chief Laurie Pritchett, hero of the segregationist stronghold in Albany, ordered their arrest when they failed to follow his parade route. A New England CNVA staff member, Fred Moore, who was visiting the Walk on his way to Florida for Christmas, was also apprehended when he inquired at the police station about the walkers. He was released Christmas Day without being charged.

12 of the walkers have fasted since their arrest. Scheduled for trial on December 30, 12 of the group did not appear in court. Word was that some of them at least were too weak to walk upstairs to the courtroom. (Chief Pritchett stated that he had once fasted for 6 months and was able to walk.) On December 31, 4 more did appear; Judge A. N. Durden then cited the remaining 8 for contempt and sentenced them to 7 days in jail. He set trial date for Tuesday, January 7, by which time the walkers will have been in jail and fasted for 15 days.

The prisoners report that they have not been physically mistreated, but have been denied soap, towels, sanitary napkins for the women, writing materials, and eye glasses for one man who can see almost nothing without them. Chief Pritchett examined defense documents in court and refused to give them to Brad Lyttle. Barbara Deming was barred from the courtroom for a time.

Attorney C. B. King of the Albany Movement is representing 2 of the walkers; the others have elected to defend themselves. The Al-

THOUGHTS ON FREEDOM

Why do we feel so limited
Just because the bars are there
When our thoughts and hearts
Are as free as the November air?

Free to roam over the past
and the future, to plan and
Study, to enter freely
In communion with a friend.

Time to explore our interior
Set our mental house in order,
Still hard to tackle when left
Behind the bars to moulder.

--Ken Meister (written in the
Gwinnett County Jail)

Ken Meister, NECNVA Staff member, looks out of Jail from Lawrenceville Ga. where he was charged with "reckless driving." He refused to post bond, after 30 days was released, and is now with the walk.



bany Movement, civil rights organization which has conducted several major campaigns in the past two years, is conducting a sympathy fast and demonstration in support of the walkers on January 1. National CNVA is calling for similar supporting demonstrations across the country on Tuesday, January 7.

The Role Of The Walk

In the South, the nature of the project has changed. It is still concerned with the communication of certain ideas, but the ideas and the methods of communication are different. One new and urgent message is that pacifists aren't milksops. To the integration movement, this means that peaceniks can take it, and are not simply Northern intellectuals, superb when it comes to theory but unwilling to put their ideas on the firing line. And to our critics in the North (practically the entire population), who challenge, "What have you ever risked for your beliefs? I was at Iwo Jima," we can say, "I was in Griffin."

Not only must we show that we can endure harrassment and brutality, but show as well that nonviolent methods can deal successfully with white southern violence. That the police in southwestern Georgia, the state government and the U.S. Justice Department can be persuaded by a nonviolent program of moral and political power, to permit an integrated walk for peace to pass safely through their domain.

Finally, the Walk, better than any other previous vehicle, can link in theory and in fact the issues of civil rights and international peace. For the Southern Negro automatically reacts favorably to a non-violent demonstration; even more so when he sees that it is being persecuted for being integrated. He is sympathetic, receptive to the message that the arms race and cold war and segregation are symptoms of basic flaws in our society.