

**THOUSANDS IN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE; HUNDREDS ARRESTED IN US AND ENGLAND** In the United States and England last weekend thousands of people engaged in civil disobedience to protest preparations for nuclear war, and hundreds were arrested. A total of between 125 and 150 were apprehended in the U.S.; 826 were taken in by police in the sit-down in Whitehall. Brief resumes of the actions and the present status of court cases follow.

**CIVIL DEFENSE PROTESTS** Unprecedented numbers of people participated in demonstrations to protest the national Civil Defense drills held on Friday, April 28. In NEW YORK CITY approximately 1500 persons refused to take shelter in City Hall Park; over 50 were arrested, including Civil Defense Protest Committee leaders David McReynolds, Ralph DiGia and Robert Gilmore. Three more were arrested for standing in front of patrol wagons which were taking the others to jail. At Columbia U. 700 students and faculty demonstrated and about 500 refused to take shelter. No arrests were made, nor were any at CCNY (145 students and 4 faculty), NYU, Bard College (300), Syracuse and Cornell Universities, Harpur College, or the many high schools in New York City where students protested by wearing white arm bands. At Music and Arts H.S., 20 students were suspended for wearing the arm bands. Trials for those arrested in New York City will occur on several dates throughout May. Bail ranging from personal recognizance to \$500 was set and posted on all 61 people arrested in N.Y.C.

At SPRING VALLEY, New York, 4 people were arrested; 3 are serving short sentences while the fourth paid a fine. Arrests were spotty in NEW JERSEY: none in Trenton, Ridgewood or at Rutgers, but 6 arrested while sitting on the lawn of the Friends Meetinghouse in Plainfield; 7 of 70 demonstrating at Drew University in Madison received police summons; a professor at Stevens Institute of Technology arrested in Hoboken; 1 visiting Antioch College student arrested in Princeton after 45 Princeton U. students and professors staging a protest demonstration took shelter during the drill.

In DURHAM, New Hampshire, about 25 students at the U. of New Hampshire refused to take shelter and paraded through the town's main street watched by some 300 people standing along the sidewalks up against the stores. 18 of the group were arrested, some by means of hopping into the police cars along with those apprehended by the police, and one by getting a ride to the police station with reporters. 4 wives with babies asked to be arrested also, but were ignored by officials. The 18 defendants will be tried in Durham on Friday, May 12. This is the first civil disobedience we know of to take place against the New Hampshire law, which carries possible penalties of 6 months and/or \$100. One of the leaders of the demonstration has resigned from the University and hopes to join CNVA's Transcontinental Walk provided a long sentence does not prevent this. Gov. Powell has reportedly offered to pay his way to Moscow.

CONNECTICUT proved to be the toughest state in which to refuse to take shelter. In Hartford, 11 (including little Scotty Swann, aged 3 years and 10 months) were apprehended following a demonstration in front of the Old Statehouse by about 60 people (all of whom took shelter except the 11). One 15-year-old boy was released, Scotty was not booked; the other 9 face trials in Connecticut Superior Court with possible maximum sentences of 5 years and/or \$1000. A probable cause hearing for 4 of the defendants (Marj Swann, Ken Meister, Beverly Kanegson, and Jim D'Ancona) will take place at Circuit Court in the Hartford Police Station building on Morgan Street at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 9. Other defendants are Seymour and Blossom Segaloff, David Tildin, Jon Robison, and Wendell Wing. Bond was set at \$1000 for each except Marj, who was released on her own recognizance because of Scotty's presence.

At Middletown, 2 Wesleyan U. students, Walter Fricke, Jr. and William Siegmann, 3rd, refused to take shelter, were arrested <sup>and released</sup> on \$100 bond. Their case comes up on Monday, May 8 in Circuit Court in Middletown.....Tor Faegre and Ed Guerard stayed home in Norwich and were arrested for refusing to take shelter on Franklin Square. They

were whisked into court at 7:00 p.m. and asked to plead; both pled guilty, thinking they were charged with refusing to obey an order of a policeman. Later they discovered they were charged with the ambiguous Connecticut Civil Defense law (impeding and obstructing CD officials in carrying out their functions). On Thursday, May 4, upon going into court for sentencing, they asked to change their plea to not guilty, which was granted. After a "probable cause" hearing, they were bound over to Superior Court for trial. Bond has been set at \$500, which they have refused to post. They are now at the New London State Jail, Montville, Conn., where they may receive letters addressed to Torvald Faegre. They have not been permitted to have any paper for writing or drawing, but have found that the time-honored stationery of prison C.O.'s, toilet tissue, serves their purposes well.

In PORTLAND, Oregon, a city commissioner openly refused to take shelter and issued a fine public statement of his reasons for refusal. Other demonstrations took place in other parts of the country, but a complete round-up has not been made as yet. If you know of or participated in any group or individual protest, will you please send us the details.

Readers of this Bulletin are urged to attend hearings, trials, and sentencings of any civil disobedience participants they possibly can. Moral support inside and supporting demonstrations outside the courthouses are welcome, and serve to notify officials and the public that many people besides those arrested are concerned about the mockery of Civil Defense.

In LONDON, over 2000 people took part in the Committee of 100's second mass civil disobedience demonstration to protest nuclear weapons, Polaris bases in Britain, and to urge disarmament. The marchers were stopped in Whitehall, before they reached Parliament Square where the sit-down was planned, so they sat down where they were stopped. 826 of them were arrested, all going limp so that police had to carry them to waiting chartered busses. Special all-night courts worked to clear the cases. The Reverend Michael Scott was one of those arrested; Bertrand Russell did not participate this time because of ill health.

COMMENTS ON JAILS      I am wondering how Emerson got his clearance to visit Thoreau by Mary Christiansen when he was jailed for his act of civil disobedience. Emerson was not a member of the immediate family, a lawyer, a clergyman or a spiritual advisor. At the New London County Jail in Montville I was asked if I was any of these when I went to visit Tor Faegre and Ed Guerard on the one visiting day permitted during the week. Being merely a friend I was refused admittance. Also rejected were writing pads I had brought and a letter I wrote. The guard, after reading it, had assured me the letter contained nothing objectionable. However, I have since learned it was never given to either Tor or Ed. When I asked the guard why the prisoners were kept in such isolation when they hadn't even been convicted of a crime, he answered that this was the regulation before sentencing to prevent them from receiving any advice or information except that given by their lawyer. The natural response to this by uninitiated people like myself is: What if they can't afford a lawyer? What if free legal advice is available but the prisoners don't know how to go about obtaining it? Obviously the authorities in the jail operate on the principle that all prisoners are guilty until proved innocent, a policy quite different from the one we are taught in school.

While-waiting in the Hartford Police Station for bail money to arrive for Ken Meister I had plenty of time to make myself extremely unpopular with a woman in the "cage". The "cage" is where several clerks of the Circuit Court keep files up to date, handle bail money, and record court data. I wanted to let Ken know that his bail was on the way, but would be delayed. There had been no chance to tell him this during the hearing. "I have no authority to do this," she said. I explained that