

KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP

PEACE NEWS

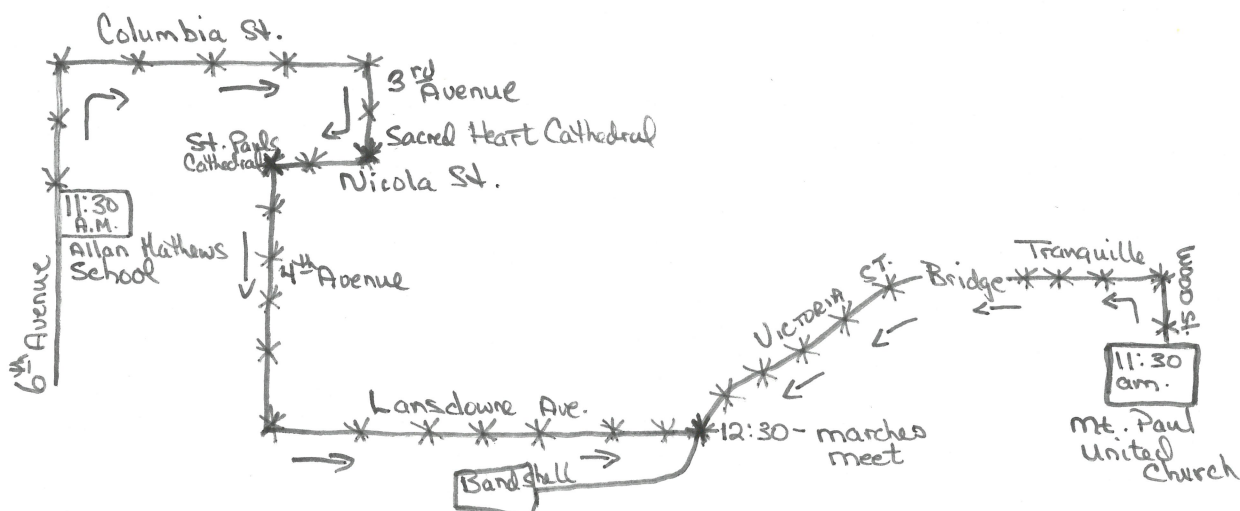
PEACE NEWS is published by the Kamloops - Shuswap Peace Council, P.O. Box 973, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6H1, ph. 374-3269. Membership in the KSPC is open to any individual or organization, regardless of philosophical, religious, or political outlook, which subscribes to the need for a secure and lasting global peace through disarmament. The KSPC is a member council of the B.C. Peace Council and through it, the Canadian Peace Congress and the World Peace Council. We welcome your comments or opinions on any material printed in PEACE NEWS.

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NUCLEAR AWARENESS DAY - 1983

Plans for Nuclear Awareness Day in Kamloops are well under way, with members of the Peace Council playing a leading roll in the organizing committees activities. The March and Rally is being held on Sunday April 24th, with the marshalling point at Allan Mathews as in the past few years. People are asked to meet at 11:30 a.m. and the march will get under way at noon.

Church congregations from both the North and South shore will be joining in the "Walk for Peace" after their morning service. To accomodate them the march will wind through the city streets as follows, picking them up:



At the bandshell in Riverside Park there will be local speakers and musicians. Kamloops musician, Sandy Hall, is busy organizing the local musicians so that we can end the day in a musical festival for peace.

The main thrust of this year's program will deal with the pending Cruise missile testing. A telegram to the Prime Minister will be available to sign; and messages will be sent to the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

The urgency of the situation requires that utmost pressure be placed on our government and on the nuclear powers to stop the Arms Race now. Nuclear Awareness Day is our chance here in Kamloops to make our voices heard.



Editorial - by Val Carey

An already serious escalation in the arms race, represented by Trident and the Cruise, MX and Pershing 11 missiles, is being further aggravated by the current wave of propaganda perpetuated by the old war horse, U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Unable to get complete acquiescence from the Congress for his grandiose schemes for the MX, he has now come up with a "new study" showing an intensive increase in Soviet military capability. Instead of replying to the recent series of peace overtures by the U.S.S.R. in a positive way, this paranoid old man chooses instead to intensify the cold war and move the arms race to its most dangerous level ever. Reagan and his advisors have made it very clear that they are convinced that a first-strike nuclear war can be won at a relatively "small" cost to the U.S. of a few cities and a few million people, but to get the money for this incredibly insane plan, he must convince the U.S. people that the Soviets are beating at the gates.

The history of the arms race clearly shows the U.S. consistently ahead from the beginning, but at the same time the U.S. military has always used the excuse that the U.S.S.R. is ahead, to get Congress to vote money to build more arms. Let's hope that this ploy won't work this time, and that the Free Movement can successfully stop the build up.

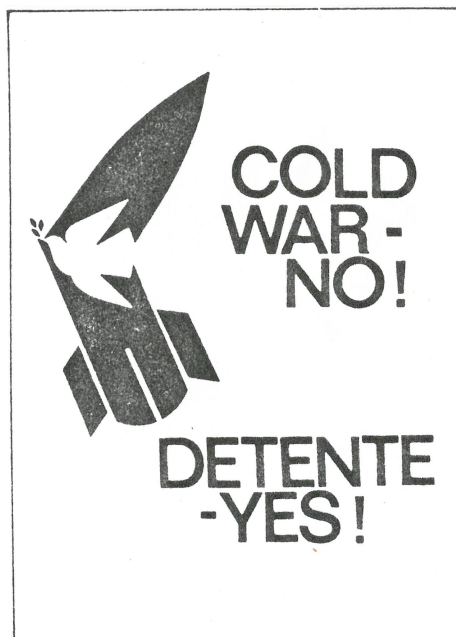
Moreover, nuclear superiority is meaningless and impossible. The notion of "winning" a nuclear war is dangerous, even suicidal. With a nuclear arsenal that can destroy the Soviet Union many times over, (each Trident can destroy 280 cities), any further build-up is nothing short of insanity!

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BARRIERE JOINS PEACE MOVEMENT:

The K.S.P.C. held a public meeting in Barriere, Sunday March 26th, to start a sister peace group. Following a showing of "If You Love This Planet", the group discussed a plan of action for Barriere, including participation in Kamloop's Nuclear Awareness Day. Another meeting will be held prior to Nuclear Awareness Day.

We welcome the concerned citizens in Barriere to the peace movement.



PEACE COUNCIL SHOW:

Watch for the K.S.P.C. show on Channel 10, April 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th for an interview with Kamloops-Shuswap M.P. Nelson Riis, discussing Canada's role in the arms race. Following the interview the new edition of "War Without Winners" will be shown. The K.S.P.C. recommends this film most highly.

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
HOLD SYMPOSIUM:

Val Carey, Chairperson, attended the symposium on the "Prevention of Nuclear War" held at U.B.C., March 5th and 6th. 800 people listened as scientists, physicians, peace activists and politicians urged people to act now to stop the growing move towards a nuclear holocaust.

Speakers included Dr. Judith Lipton, Dr. Tom Perry, Dr. Michael Wallace and Dr. Michael Pentz, Science Dean at Britain's Open University.

The main object of the symposium was to educate health professionals and scientists on the facts of nuclear war. Physicians were urged to tell their patients about the facts of nuclear war and the dangers of the arms race.

Dr. Penz, who is Vice-President of the influential British peace group, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, made the point very clearly that the U.S. Government, through the introduction of it's greatest danger. He also stated that the West should be aware of the 18 million member Soviet Peace Committee.

The formation of two new Vancouver peace groups was announced at the Symposium, Nurses for Peace and Veterans for Peace.

Also, attending the conference were

SYMPOSIUM cont.

Medical students from the UBC School of Medicine, as the symposium was a credit course for physicians and students.

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CALL TRUDEAU CAMPAIGN:

On March 7th, the K.S.P.C. participated in a country wide phone-in campaign to the Prime Minister's office to protest the signing of the Weapons Testing Treaty.

K.S.P.C. phoned at 37 ministers after the hour, starting at 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Other groups in the country manned the phones for the other 59 minutes.

The reaction at the P.M.'s office was politely cool, but as the morning wore on, coolness turned to exasperation until they finally refused to take messages from the callers.

We feel that it was a valid form of protest and that Trudeau got the message that the majority of Canadian citizens do not back his plans to test the Cruise missile, or any other weapon, in Canada.

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by Val Carey

BOOK REVIEW

Saffer, Thomas H. and Orville E. Kelly. Countdown Zero. New York: Putnam, 1982.

On July 15, 1945, at Trinity in the New Mexico desert, the first atomic bomb was detonated. During the next seventeen years some 250,000 U.S. servicemen were exposed - without their knowledge or consent - to frequently high levels of ionizing radiation during 235 atmospheric test. The experiment was designed to test how soldiers would perform in a nuclear war. The only protection provided for the men was trenches, while the scientists on the site had radiation suits and seldom came near the area where the soldiers were required to be. Some witnesses even saw men that had been burned by the blast, but these witnesses were told by their superiors that they were imagining things, and one witness was drugged for several days. The soldiers were required to leave the trenches immediately after the blast and proceed to ground zero.

Two decades later, more and more of these men are falling victim to incurable cancers and undiagnosable diseases. They die younger than the average American. Their children often suffer from strange congenital diseases or are born deformed. And although billions of dollars were spent on weapons testing, not one penny has been allocated for victims of these tests.

Orwill Kelly witnessed tests in Nevada, and then was assigned to Japtan Island where he witnessed twenty-two nuclear detonations in four months in 1958. He describes the demoralizing effect this assignment had on himself and his men.

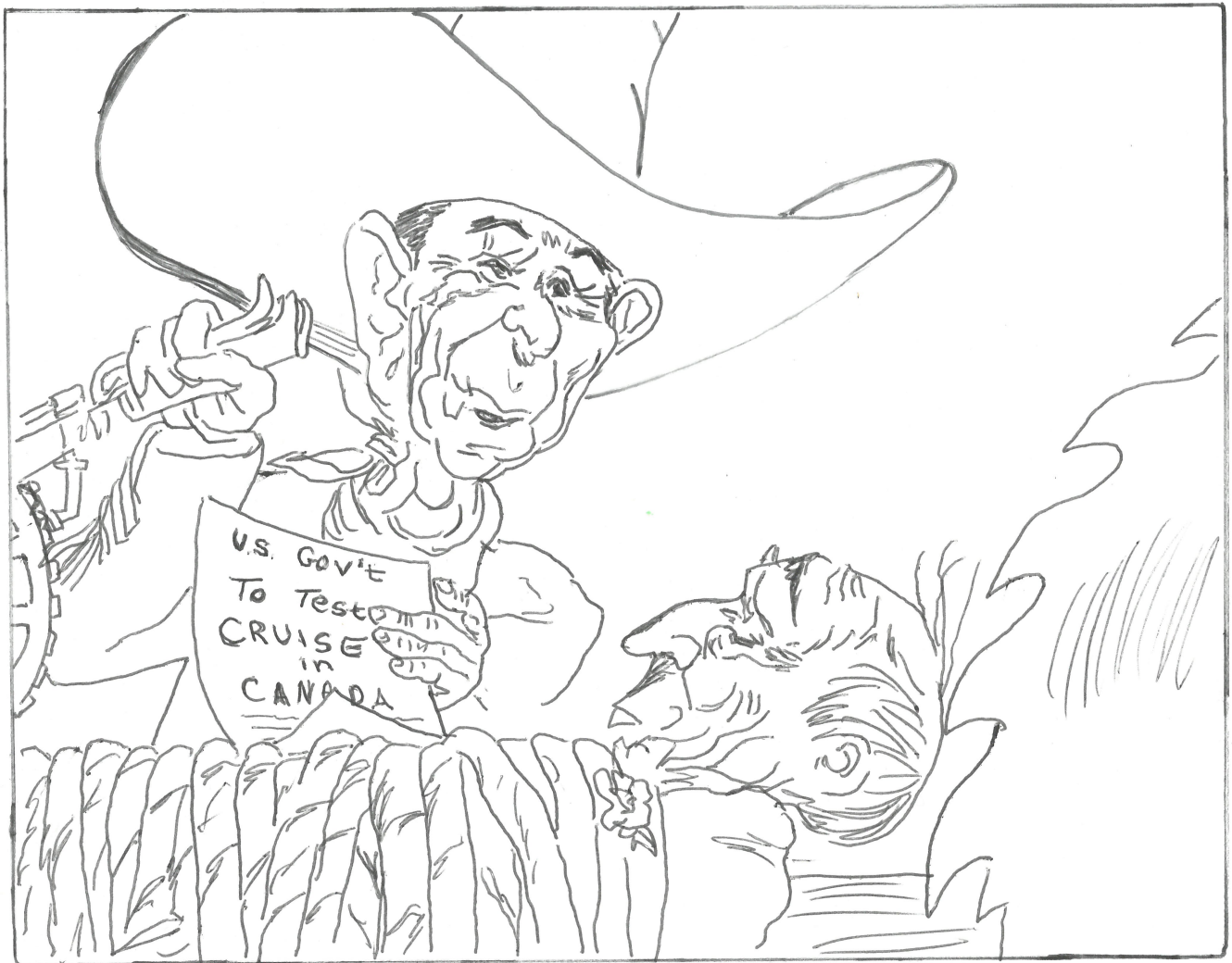
In 1973 he was diagnosed as having cancer which Kelly knew was caused by his exposure to nuclear tests. He worked hard over the next six years to get recognition of his illness as a disability incurred while on active duty. The book describes his long agonizing battle with Veteran's Administration, and his contacts with others who had the same experience. In a landmark Veteran's Administration case a year before he died in 1980, he became the first atomic veteran to receive compensation.

The book also discusses the effects of these tests on various civilian populations, including the cast and crew of the movie The Conqueror. The movie was filmed in 1945 near the site of the test range, and 91 of the cast of 220 have died of cancer including John Wanyne, Susan Hayward, Dick Powell and Agnes Moorehead. Marshall

Islanders near the test sites in the Pacific were burned by a detonation and the entire group are ill and dying from the effects.

Countdown Zero is not a book that one reads for relaxation. It is a disturbing book, an indictment of a government's misplaced priorities and inhuman attitude. The book is available at Cariboo College library and we understand that it may be available for purchase soon in Kamloops.





"...not to split hairs about this, but you do realize this is only a preliminary decision..."

NO CRUISE IN CANADA:

A telegram with 56 names protesting the weapons testing treaty was sent to Prime Minister Trudeau on February 13 following a meeting to protest the signing of the treaty. Reverend Bruce Chamberlayne, associate priest of the Anglican St. Paul's Cathedral, spoke to the hastily organized gathering expressing the concern of all present over the signing of the treaty, which opens the door for the testing of the cruise missile in Alberta.

The K.S.P.C. urges all readers of the Peace News to take a few minutes to write to the Prime Minister, the Minister of External Affairs, Alan MacEachern: and Ronald Reagan.

NEXT MEETING:

The regular meetings of the K.S.P.C. will be held on Sunday April the 17th and Sunday May the 15th, both at 7 P.M. in the North Kamloops Public Library. The door to the meeting room is around the back of the Library, as the front entrance is closed due to Library closure. Anyone needing a ride or more information about the meetings, please call 376-6053 or 376-7663.

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