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The Voice of UNB

Washington Report

Special to the Brunswickan by
on-the-spot correspondent John Oliver

Students. Black Power. Veterans. Peter, Paul and Mary. Nazis. Military police. Flowers. One hundred and fifty students from UNB.

A crowd of 75-100 thousands staged a peace march Saturday, October 21 in Washington, to protest U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. What started as a non-violent march - one of the largest ever in the United States - degenerated several times to fighting between the demonstrators and some of the 5,000 combat-trained military police on duty at the Pentagon. Meanwhile, President Johnson lunched quietly with Vice-President Humphrey and other officials in the Rose Garden of the White House, (which was closed to the public for painting).

By 10 a.m. Saturday, thousands were already sprawled on the grass around the reflecting pool, which stretches between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. A holiday atmosphere prevailed as the crowd, most of whom were students, soaked in warm sunshine, doctored up placards, and occasionally broke into scattered applause for either speakers or entertainers.

What the public likes to label as the "hippy" element was present in obvious loving abundance. But most that one talked to were genuinely concerned about the war, and feeling seemed strong that the United States should withdraw its troops. "Support Our Boys - Bring Them Home", read many posters.

In one of the first incidents of the day, Dr. Clive Jenkins a British Labour MP, had the microphone wrested from him by two American Nazis, who were subsequently arrested. Other speakers included Dr. Benjamin Spock, and Rabbi Abraham Feinberg of Toronto, who gave God's blessing, "whether or not you believe in God." Of the entertainers Phil Ochs, and Peter, Paul and Mary received most of the attention.

The thousands of placards were at the very least, eye-catching; all had a message. "War Criminal", read many, with the familiar face below. One demonstrator burned a huge replica of a draft card, which carried the name "Will. Die". One amusing scrawl went: "U.S. Pull Out - Like Your Father When he Shows Love."

It was several hours before the actual march began. The chairmen of the Mobilization were attempting to have more of the fencing, in front of the Pentagon, removed so the crowd could gather on the lawn. It was an extremely difficult task to get the huge crowd, marching fifteen abreast, onto its feet and on its way to the Pentagon, across the Potomac River in Virginia, 2-2½ miles away. As it was, the march was two hours in duration for those who stayed in the ranks.

The trouble-maker element, always present in a gathering of that size, soon made

itself felt at the parking lot in front of the Pentagon. A group of about ten Nazis had gathered to stage an anti-anti-war demonstration. Some of the "peace" marchers, or at least the trouble-maker element, attacked and beat the Nazis, who, having been routed, fled over a nearby hill. Peace march "Marshalls" couldn't guarantee freedom of expression to fellow Americans.

Demonstrators massed on the lawn outside one entrance of the Pentagon. Many of the peace marchers had intended to non-violently dis-obey the government by crossing a barrier line guarded by the military, but the organizers had hoped to avoid a violent clash. After gaining access to the wall of one entrance, however, demonstrators charged the doors of the Pentagon. A few did manage to get inside, and were promptly arrested; most faced a charge by military police. A few demonstrators tried to fight back, but the police waded into the crowd, rifle butts, truncheons, and boots smashing. Blood was left on the terrace. Many were taken to hospital; many more were arrested.

The crowd, forced back to the edge of the terrace, sat down to sing and chant. "He Wants the Whole World on his Ranch". "Hell No, We Won't Go". "Peace Now". Many threw flowers at the sternfaced military police, who were openly jeered and taunted. One individual burned his draft card, holding it high for maximum applause. In a matter of seconds, dozens were aflame on the steps of the Pentagon.

As night came, hundreds remained on the steps. Troublesome incidents did not stop there: some urinated from atop the wall; others threw rocks at the Pentagon windows. Many further arrests were in store, as attempts were made later to clear the steps, and again on Sunday, when the demonstration permit ran out.

Sewer Still Running

The *Secret Sewer*, described as "published by an independent group under the chairmanship of M. G. Davis", issued its second edition this week, this time a small four-page publication.

Gary Davis, editor and publisher, expects the next issue to be eight pages in length.

The *Secret Sewer* is the Atlantic provinces' first underground newspaper. This week's edition contains articles on the Washington march, the provincial election, and an art theft at UNB.

ANOTHER ART THEFT - THIS TIME AT UNB

Several posters were stolen from McConnell Hall Monday morning, reportedly by residence students.

The posters were part of a collection being exhibited jointly by the German Department and World University Services in Canada (WUSC).

The posters were to be sold in order to contribute to a fund for Rhodesian scholarships.

The incident follows closely an incident involving two sculptures stolen from the Lord Beaverbrook Art Gallery and later found in two of the residences.

At press time no action had been taken on the poster thefts.

- reprinted from the SECRET SEWER

