



by Bill Inglee

Church groups mixed with activists Easter Sunday afternoon in Edmonton as 360 km anti-cruise march concluded with a rally at City Hall.

The rally marked the finish for a marathon protest trek that began in Cold Lake 12 days before and was among the largest rallies in the history of Edmonton's anti-cruise movement, drawing 2,500 individuals for the final gathering.

The march through the city began after marchers arrived at North Town Mall in the early afternoon after a relatively short trip from their overnight stop in Namao, near Edmonton.

After a slow start, the march, led by the original group of 12 who left Cold Lake, gathered steam and once near the city's core had attracted enough people to stretch over a distance of four blocks.

The march marked the first time many groups had actively demonstrated their opposition to the proposed cruise missile testing program, bringing together old-line activists with church and other organizations.

When the march arrived at City Hall there was a tremendous outpouring of emotion as the trek ended for the original group and friends were reunited.

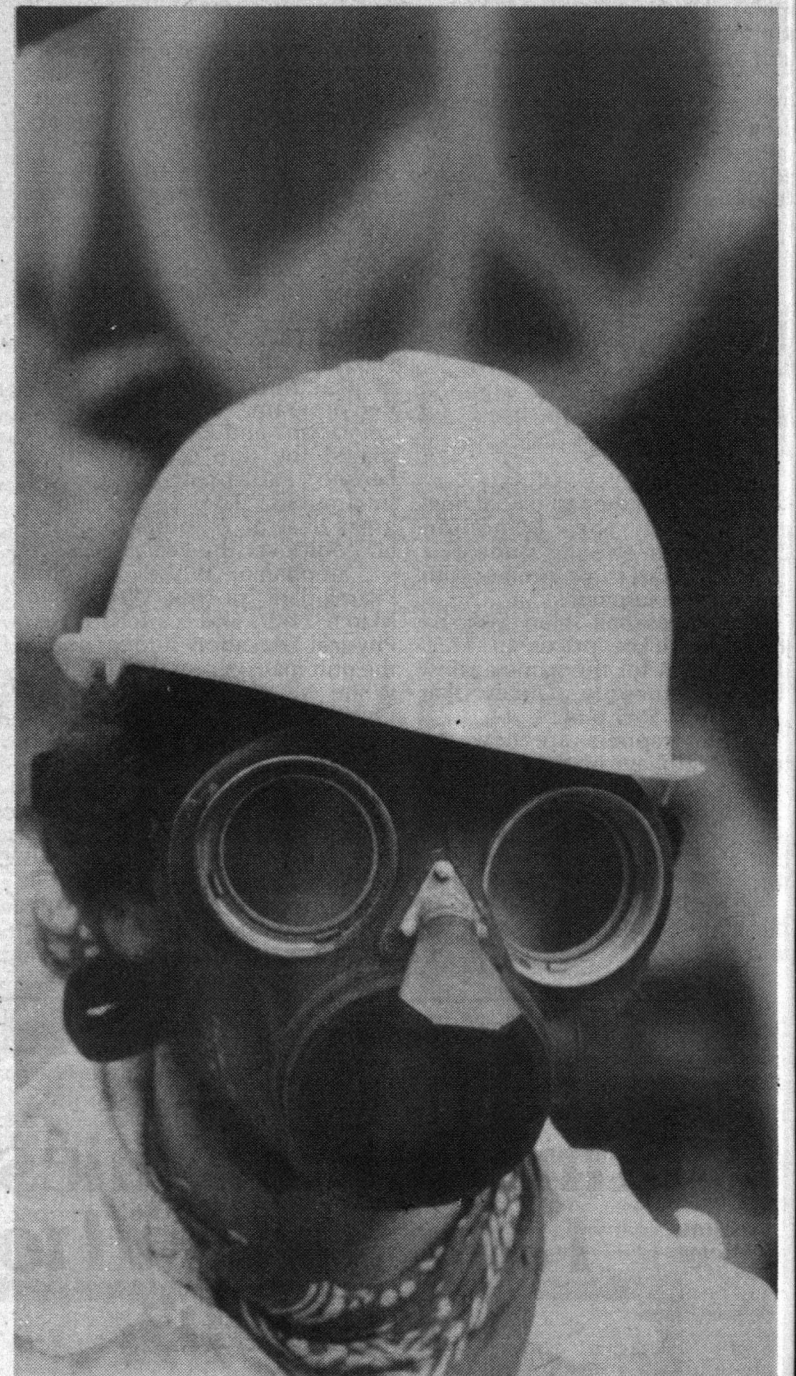
Once assembled, the rally was addressed by a number of speakers, including MP's Doug Anguish, an NDP member from Saskatchewan and Doug Roche, Conservative MP for Edmonton South.

Roche's impassioned speech at the end of the meeting claimed that the peace movement had become one with mass appeal and had crossed the boundaries of age and class.

Other speakers echoed the same sentiments, but the most touching moment of the afternoon came as the marchers stood behind the speechmakers and showed the determination that carried them through to Edmonton.

Though the politicians postured and the speakers spoke, the original group that left Cold Lake twelve days before were the most significant people among the throng.

No Cruise: The last four miles



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