

# Rochester Peace Drive Spreads Across Nation

By WILLIAM E. FARRELL JUN 3 1970

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ROCHESTER, N. Y.—When the four students were killed by National Guardsmen at Kent State University on May 4, nearly 1,000 of the University of Rochester's 3,300 undergraduates met in a dining hall to seek a way to vent their anger and frustration.

For some, the meeting was a series of oratorical tirades that led to little more than releasing pent-up emotions; for others it meant a brief and nondestructive seizure of the administration building; for yet others, it resulted in the formation of the National Petition Committee—an ambitious plan to collect \$10-million and 20 million signatures nationwide calling for America's withdrawal from Southeast Asia.

Since then, this campus has been the center of an anti-war drive that has reached into 41 states.

The idea to seek petitions and raise funds to promote an anti-war advertising campaign was presented at the meeting by Gordon Black, a professor of political science.

## Friends Called

Shortly afterward, faculty members and students compiled lists of friends and contacts on campuses across the country and began a telephone campaign seeking support for the idea.

The volunteers are cautioned to "remember this is not only a student movement; it is a national campaign of concerned people—doctors, Senators, etc.—the word 'student' has developed a connotation similar to 'Communist' or 'radical' so de-emphasize that word."

Locally, teams of students canvassed the City of Rochester and obtained money and thousands of signatures to the briefly worded petitions that say: "We ask the United States Congress to assert its constitutional powers in matters of war and peace, to condemn our recent invasion of Cambodia, and to require the President to bring our troops home. We wish no further military involvement in Indochina."

Nationally, the committee has collected 130,000 signatures and \$60,000—much of it in donations of less than \$1, according to faculty members and students working on the drive.

The committee's headquarters is in a low-eaved wing of Fauver Stadium, an ivy-covered building that helps make this bucolic campus on the Genessee River look as if it has sprung full-bloom from some nineteen-forties Hollywood epic about Joe College.

Volunteers have made contact with more than 300 colleges across the country, ranging from the prestigious institutions (Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Cornell) to the less well-known (Hiram, Keuka, Furman).

## 150 Active Drivers

Peter Davis, a sophomore majoring in economics and a student leader of the petition campaign, concedes that only "150 of these are really active" but points to blackboards noting contributions and signatures from schools from Maine to California and says optimistically:

"We're bringing the case against the war to places it's never been brought before."

Equally sanguine about the ability of the committee to survive summer vacations is Ronald Formisano, a young, athletic assistant professor of history.

Pointing to the financial stability of the committee and the fact that it will have a full-time summer staff of volunteers as well as about eight two-man teams traveling about the country, or-

ganizing young people and speaking to groups ranging from Rotarians to radicals, Mr. Formisano said: "We'll stay alive through the summer. And we'll have a pump to prime in the fall."

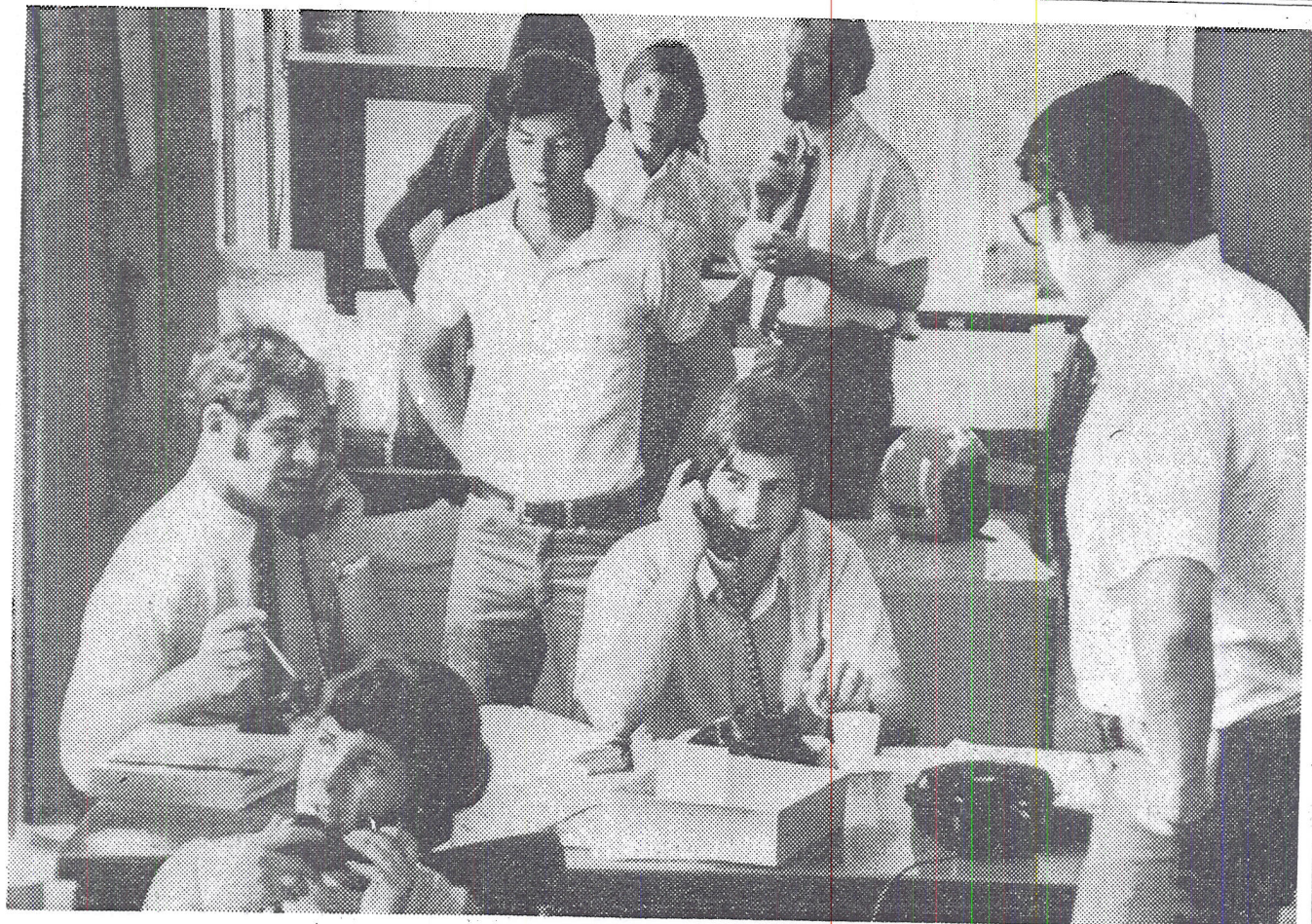
The committee has received favorable comment from editorial writers in local papers, and from the Republican-controlled City Council of Rochester, which adopted a cautiously worded resolution commending it for its approach, but refraining from remarks on the content of the petitions.

Some committee members agree that the essential purpose of the petitions, which are stored in files in Fauver Stadium, is primarily for "show." But they also point out the petitions could be used to convince a Congressman of the intensity of the antiwar feeling among his constituents.

The primary purpose of the committee—at least as it is envisioned now when the money is rolling in—is to purchase time on television using professionally made spots.

"The intention is to peak activities in the middle of October," Mr. Formisano said.

Officially the committee will not take positions on supporting candidates for Congress, he added, but it is expected—and has already happened—that local groups soliciting funds and signatures will take such stands.



Members of National Petition Committee at the University of Rochester calling for signatures and money in campaign to promote peace through advertisements in mass media. Students and faculty are cooperating on venture. Brad Bliss for The New York Times

One problem facing the committee is the setting up of finance committee to avoid any pitfalls connected with soliciting and handling funds. Incorporation papers as a nonprofit institution have been filed with the Secretary of State.

The committee already boasts a broad and impressive list of endorsers, such

as Senator Jacob K. Javits, Howard J. Samuels, Representative Richard L. Ottinger, Arthur Miller, Theodore C. Sorensen, Lillian Hellman, Paul Goodman and many others.

A guide to canvassing, geared for students unused to door-to-door campaigning, contains such advice as: "Don't ego trip." Regarding

working with local organizations, it says: "Stay out of all the back stabbing that goes on in any office."

On appearance: "Hair should be combed if possible and beards trimmed and clean in non-beard places." Dress: "Shoes and socks—not sandals" but "avoid ties—they relate to tax collectors, etc.—a student should

appear as he is expected to be: collegiate."

Recommended uniform for boys: Button-down shirts and avoid "army coats" and "work shirts." For girls: "Try to dress like you used to in high school; i.e., skirts, blouses, sweaters, bras" and "be soft-selling—many people are afraid of liberated girls."