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**Peace Drive Wins Respectability**

By Larry D. Hatfield

The peace movement, like ecology, has gained middle class respectability.

Sponsors of next Saturday's anti-war demonstration here say this will be evident in the six-mile peace march from downtown to the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park.

They predict as many as a

half million people may make the march. But it is almost certain it will draw as many people as did the Nov. 15, 1969, Vietnam Moratorium Day here when estimates ranged from 60,000 to 250,000.

#### A Prediction

On Aug. 25, 1965, Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor told the Commonwealth Club here

that continued military pressure by the United States would force the Communists "to give in in Vietnam."

Outside the Fairmont, a bedraggled group of about 100 demonstrators, including Jerry Rubin, carried signs denouncing the war.

They were described by former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, who passed

through The City the next day, as "disgusting."

#### For Peace

"These people say they're for peace," Nixon said. "They don't understand we are fighting in Vietnam to prevent World War III and to keep the Pacific from becoming a Red sea."

Today, nearly six years

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later, the United States is still fighting in Vietnam, although President Nixon says it is getting out.

And there are still demonstrations. But that little band that picketed Taylor is no longer lonely.

#### The Support

"It's the war that has no respectability now," says Jim Lafferty, a Detroit attorney who is one of five chairmen of the National Peace Action Coalition.

But demonstration leaders contend that the kind of people who are demonstrating is as important as the number.

Saturday's demonstration has the active support of a wide variety of anxious Americans, from hippies to hardhats. Participating in the march will be leading clergymen and politicians, labor leaders along with the rank and file, women's and third world groups, business executives, teachers, housewives and students.

And leading the march will be active duty servicemen from all branches of the military.

"There is a common denominator," says Spec. 5 Jesse Logan, a 26 year old draftee from Pueblo, Colo., assigned to the Letterman Research Institute here. "It covers the whole spectrum of political beliefs. All these people are interested in peace and pulling out of Vietnam."

#### Concerned

Logan is a member of a new and rapidly growing group called the Concerned Officers Movement which has members, including some enlisted men, at Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Coast Guard and Public Health Service installations throughout the Bay Area.

Uniformed members of COM will conduct an ecumenical peace service at 8 p.m. Friday in the First Unitarian Church. "It gives us a chance to demonstrate that military personnel also are dedicated to peace" said Capt. Frank Polk, also of Letterman. "It will be quiet, solemn and powerful."

COM members, not in uniform, will head the march Saturday.

"It should be a lot more impressive when the military joins (protests against the war)," said Spec. 5 Gary

Bjorklund, 24. "It might help convince them (The Nixon Administration) to get out."

Spec. 4 John Polich, 23, of Maxwell, Iowa, added that the image of the peace movement is changing because of the active duty servicemen.

#### Shared View

The view of the changing image of the peace movement is shared by Dan Rosenshine, West Coast coordinator for NPAC. "It is very significant, and Nixon can't

help pay some attention to it, that people from all segments of American life are demanding we get out," he said in an interview.

"The hard hats are out there. The businessmen are out there. It crosses all economic lines, racial lines, ethnic lines. People have had it and they're saying so."

Lafferty adds, "This is very important because it's making it harder and harder for the Nixons, the Agnews and the Westmorelands to pass off peace demonstrations as the work of the same old few. That's just not true."

#### Labor

Ranking with the involvement of military men in importance, movement leaders say, is the growing disenchantment with the war and Nixon's policies in the labor movement.

The San Francisco Labor Council, for instance, has broken with the national AFL-CIO and its President George Meany in endorsing the April 24 demonstrations.

Mike Schneider, of Electrical Workers Local 6, says, "A lot of us didn't speak out against the war before and a lot of kids died."

Anne Draper of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers said, "We should not evade the most basic issue confronting this country today. This is a labor issue — workers' sons are dying, workers' taxes are increasing."

Lafferty added: "It has become an economic issue as well as a moral one and as a result, businessmen as well as labor are saying it's time to get out."

The growing involvement of the respectable middle class in active opposition to the war is spurring some tactical changes in plans for continuing protests. Mass demonstrations later this year, as an example, will be

planned for a variety of "Middle America" cities whereas formerly they have been largely confined to the big cities on the East and West Coasts.

"Much of the opposition is coming from the Midwest now," said Lafferty, "and demonstrations there are being seriously considered."

There is, of course still significant support for Nixon's policy for extracting the U.S. from the war. A major faction of the Labor Council here argued unsuccessfully that the local unions should follow the national AFL-CIO's lead in supporting the Administration.

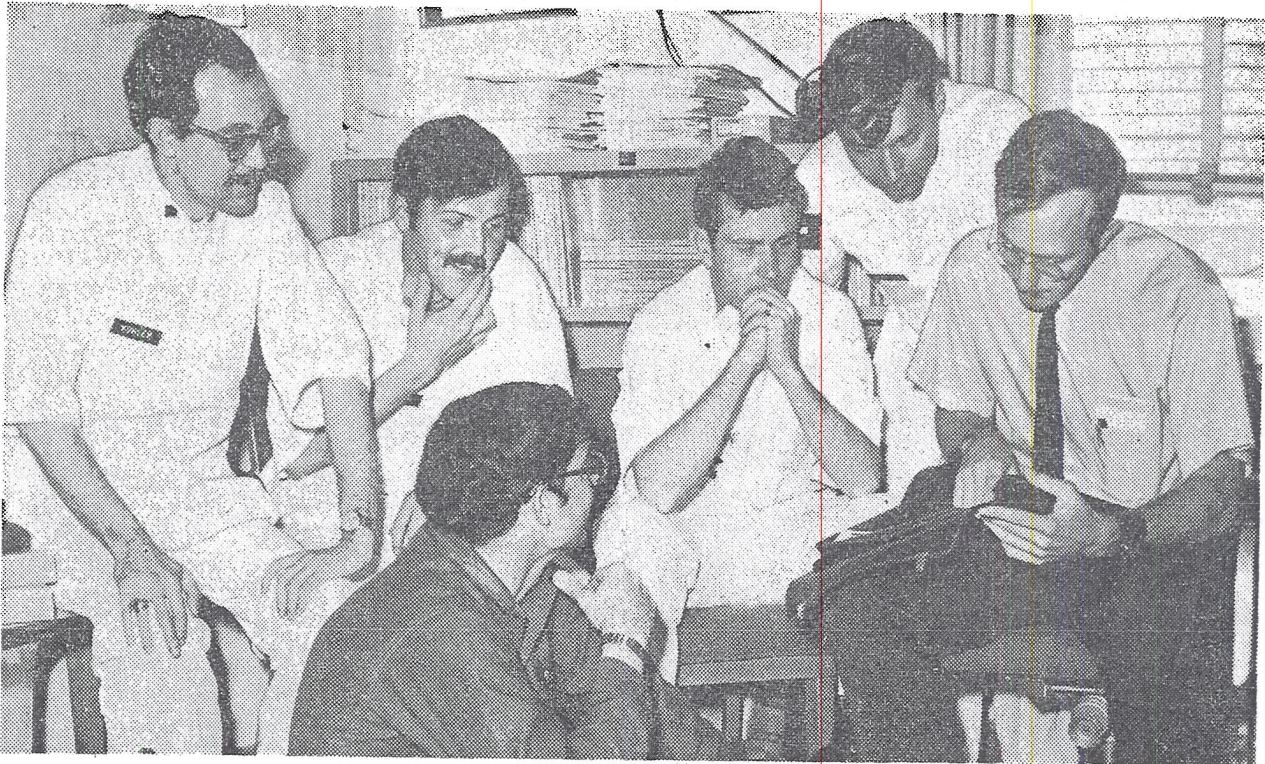
Attorney Edward E. Heavey representing a local veterans group protested City endorsement of the demonstration before the supervisors and "took note" of it but stopped short of endorsing it.

Have the demonstrations had any effect? "That's difficult to answer very well" says NPAC's Lafferty. "We don't know what would have happened ... on the bombings ... Laos ... Cambodia ... if there had been no demonstrations. But, yes, I think they have done some good ... provided some check."

Polich, one of the enlisted men in the Concerned Officers Movement, said he doesn't think "they've done much good" but he added: "At least they serve as an

expression of some sort of moral conscience." peace movement if, as Nixon says, the U.S. actually does east Asia in the next couple of years?

And what happens to the disengage itself from South- "Well, then we have won,"



S/4 Mike Kohler, S/4 John Polick, S/5 Jesse Logan, S/5 Gary Bjorklund, Capt. Frank Polk, Jon Tuthill map protest

—Examiner Photo

says Lafferty, adding that he is not convinced that "Vietnamization" actually is happening. Both he and Rosen-shine feel the administrative apparatus of the peace movement probably will be partially retained to attack domestic problems like poverty and racism. ,

Capt. Polk, of COM, says he doesn't think Nixon is "winding down" the war.

"The nature of the war is changing," he said. "We're using 7½ ton bombs now instead of sending in Americans on the ground. We say we're turning it over to the South Vietnamese but it's patently clear they're not going to be able to handle it."

The result, Polk feels, is there will be continued U.S. involvement, at least in the air war. Part of the reason the American ground action is being phased out, he adds, is "the grunts (GIs) are just refusing to go fight."

Polich and other antiwar soldiers at Letterman said

there was a fairly general bitterness among GIs returning from Vietnam. "They're not just blindly following some lieutenant into battle anymore," he says.

As in all mass demonstrations, there is the possibility of violence in Saturday's march but NPAC leaders say they have their own monitors to help handle the crowd and they are confident the San Francisco police will "show restraint."

"The San Francisco police have always been pretty good in these things," Rosen-shine said, adding: "And they also know that the majority of voters here approved Proposition J (an anti-Vietnam measure on last November's ballot)."

Lafferty and other NPAC leaders conceded there could be violence "because of the extreme frustration this continuing war has created."

There are also certain radicals, they agreed, who deliberately try to provoke violence on the theory that police overreaction will "radicalize more moderates."