



Military Police stand just inside the gate.

Civil Disobedience Caps Weekend of Protest

By Anthony J. Costello
And John Dash

Romulus — In early pre-dawn mist, Buddhist drums echoed eerily in the sulphurous glow of flares set outside the main gate at Seneca Army Depot. Two Buddhists in saffron robes stood chanting an ancient Japanese prayer for peace. One, a nun, stood on federal property answering antiphonally the verses cast to her by her partner on public land.

Gradually the American protestors gathered in the dark and assembled at the wire gates, linking arms, singing their own songs, identifying friends.

The protestors were present for the final day of the October Action, a day of civil disobedience to draw attention to their contention that Cruise and Pershing II missiles are located at the depot, a site from which they expect the missiles will be transhipped for European deployment.

As strings of State Police kept careful watch, the protestors, many from Rochester, blocked several

gates at the depot. As of Courier-Journal press time, it was estimated that 350 demonstrators were blocking six of the passages.

About half of those who were present had indicated their willingness to be arrested for their actions.

Among those was Sister Margaret Smith, the sole member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart in the diocese. With her were about 15 members of Cana, the Rochester Catholics Against Nuclear Arms.

Marian Kelly was present to give support to the action. Clare Reagan was also present, as was Pat Mannix, the three well-known in Catholic circles in Rochester for their peace activities.

Mark Carver was also present. It is often considered that Carver's personal protest at the depot is the origin of the current demonstrations.

Also at the gate in before dawn was Dr. Benjamin Spock, the famed pediatrician and pacifist demonstrator.

From Buffalo, Father Gregory Gay, a Vincentian

priest, Niagara University led a group of about 15. From Syracuse, Jerry Berrigan, the brother of Father Daniel and Phillip Berrigan, was with the Bread not Bombs contingent.

Diocesan Sisters were also present, Sister Beatrice Ganley, SSJ, among them. Sister Beatrice is the co-editor of *Voices for Peace*, an anthology of poetry to be published this week.

Not representing his offices, but present on his own was Tim McGowan, head of political action for the Office of Human Development.

As the leaden sky began to brighten, the Syracuse group began a ritual of "Naming the Children" in which the names of children were called out, and the phrase, "This child deserves to live," was shouted in response.

The CANA group gathered a short distance away and performed their own ritual, a paraliturgical service of readings, hymns and the sharing of bread and wine.

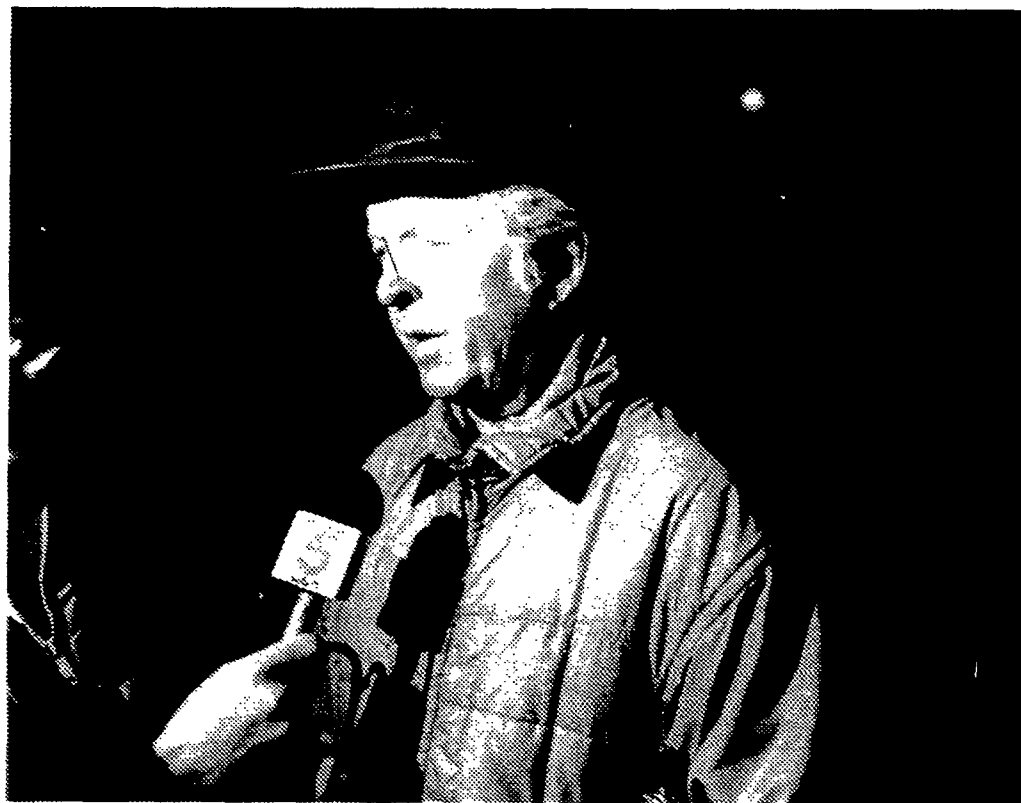
At Courier-Journal presstime, about 20 demonstrators had been arrested, a number of them for climbing over the fences.



The first protestor goes over the fence...



...followed by the second.



Jerry Berrigan speaks to reporters.

Photos by Anthony J. Costello



Buddhist religious strike their fanlike drums as they chant their prayer for peace.

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