



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Sit-in participant Frank O'Hara takes a moment to pray during the protest on the third floor of the Federal Building.

Peace sit-in

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speak with the demonstrators, but his office later released a statement outlining his stand.

"I believe Congress should support the president's decision, whatever it may be; to end the crisis in the Persian Gulf," the statement read in part. "This will demonstrate our seriousness to (Iraqi leader) Saddam Hussein, and may even bring about Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait without military action," it concluded.

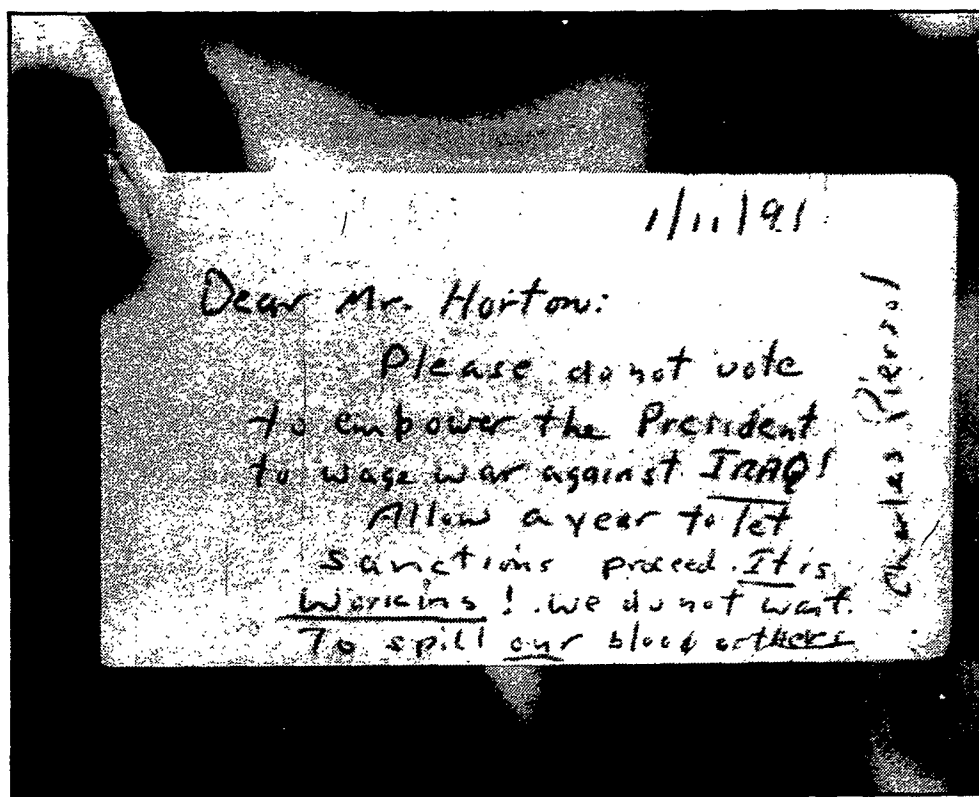
Crossed said the two groups of demonstrators stayed in the offices of Horton and D'Amato hoping to persuade the congressmen to change their minds.

Among the group in Horton's office were Father Werth and Alonzo Wilson, a Rochester resident whose 38-year-old daughter, Rochelle, is stationed in Saudi Arabia. Wilson said his daughter is an Army sergeant and an expert in chemical and biological warfare.

"I am opposed to Bush right from the get-go," Wilson said of the president. He also said he was angry that the federal government was neglecting social services, "yet they can come up with \$1-2 billion a day so that somebody can get killed."

According to several newspaper accounts, Operation Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia is costing the United States more than \$30 million a day.

Wilson also complained about the fact that Christian U.S. service persons are not allowed to publicly practice their faith in Saudi Arabia, although he had seen television news reports showing Iraqi Christians publicly practicing their faith.



Sit-in supporter Charles Piersol attempted to deliver a note to representatives in Congressman Frank Horton's office, but was told he would have to wait.

City police added a moment of levity to the afternoon's confrontational atmosphere when they sent a note to reporters from a conference room in which they were meeting. "Send food and we will release all hostages," the officers' note read.

The job of police turned serious when the protesters refused to leave the offices by late afternoon, following warnings that they would be arrested if they remained in the offices.

One of the spokesmen for the demonstrators noted that the two groups had decided to not resist arrest, and none of

the protesters visibly resisted as police handcuffed and escorted them out of the offices. As they left, the remaining demonstrators stood and sang the anti-war song "Give Peace a Chance" by the late John Lennon.

Crossed said the protesters were issued tickets to appear in City Court Tuesday morning, Jan. 15. Conviction on the trespass charges carries a maximum penalty of 60 days in jail or a \$500 fine.

An interfaith vigil was scheduled to take place during the protesters' court appearance from 10:45-11:45 a.m. Tuesday.

March

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death of Nancy Cruzan, a Missouri woman who died 12 days after removal of tubes supplying her with food. The tubes were removed following a U.S. Supreme Court decision permitting their removal. Cruzan had been in a coma for eight years.

Pro-life forces opposed the Supreme Court decision, fearing that it would set a precedent, Dorscheid observed. "We've opened the door now," he noted. "I think we're going to be emptying the nursing homes."

Dorscheid noted that this year's march is particularly important because of the October, 1990, appointment of David Souter to the Supreme Court.

"It seems like everybody's forgetting that we have a new Supreme Court justice and there are some decisions that will be made soon that could affect things one way or another for years to come," Dorscheid said.

Peters pointed out that the outcome of several elections in November, 1990, were influenced by the abortion debate. In New York state, he observed, "the Right To Life Party got more votes than it's ever gotten before."

Abortion will continue to be a major political issue, Peters observed, and an impor-

tant part of the March for Life will be the opportunity for participants to lobby their congressional representatives. "You just have to keep banging away and presenting the truth to people," he concluded.

Among the scheduled highlights of the march, Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn is scheduled to give the closing prayer at the rally, which will take place in the Mall at Seventh Street before the march down Constitution Avenue to the Capitol and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cardinals John J. O'Connor of New York and James A. Hickey of Washington also have agreed to attend the march, as have Archbishops Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia, Joseph T. Ryan of the Archdiocese for the Military Services and Adam J. Maida of Detroit and Bishops Rene H. Gracida of Corpus Christi, Texas, and James C. Timlin of Scranton, Pa., according to march organizers.

An overnight vigil co-sponsored by the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities and the Archdiocese of Washington will be held at the shrine beginning at 7 p.m. Jan. 21.

Cardinal O'Connor, chairman of the bishops' pro-life committee, will be principal celebrant and homilist at an 8 p.m. Mass Jan. 21 and Cardinal Hickey will be principal celebrant of a 7 a.m. Mass Jan. 22.

Diocesan office to send information; buses leaving for two peace marches

ROCHESTER — The diocesan Division of Social Ministry plans to send out informational packets to diocesan parishes and administrative offices on Jan. 16. The packet is to contain a mini-directory of organizations accepting referrals from people interested in conscientious objection to military action in the Persian Gulf. The packet will also ask each pastor to name a parishioner interested in counseling people on the option of conscientious objection.

The diocese is also encouraging participation in either of two peace demonstrations scheduled to take place in

Washington on Jan. 19 and 26. Buses sponsored by the Peace and Justice Education Center will leave for the Jan. 19 march from Corpus Christi Church, 864 E. Main St., at 11 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18. Buses sponsored by the Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace will leave for the Jan. 26 march also from Corpus Christi on Friday, Jan. 25. Both rides cost \$35.

Buses will also be leaving from Main Street in Genesee at 12:30 a.m. on Jan. 26. The cost is \$35, with a rate of \$25 for students and those with low incomes. For details, call the Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace at 716/243-4002.

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