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Students in Washington, Nov 1961

WASHINGTON REPORT # 1

(This is the first of the reports by the fourteen students who left Monday, November 13 for Washington D.C. for a demonstration fast in support of the President's present stand not to resume nuclear testing in the atmosphere. Until the fast has been completed these daily reports will serve to inform the Grinnell population of progress which is being made in Washington.)

After two car breakdowns, one in Michigan City and one in Cedar Rapids, the group arrived successfully in Washington at 7:00 P.M. at the Peace Action Center, They were greeted by Sanford Gottfield, political action chairman of National SANE. A reception was held for the group.

Gottfield urged the group to stress their stated purpose, that is support of the present presidential stand not to resume nuclear testing in the atmosphere;the group agreed to this.

The fourteen Grinnell students also spoke for a time with Clark Mollenhoff, Washington Correspondent for the Cowles publications, who promised them publicity in the way of an article directed to the Des Moines Register and Tribune, and Associated Press coverage. Larry Smucker, telephone correspondent for the group reported that an Associated Press photographer would be on hand at the beginning of the fast to take pictures.

******* The fast will begin, because of the delay, Thursday morning at 7:30 A.M. in front of the White House. The exact location of the fast will be reported tomorrow in the second bulletin. We urge you all to join in the sympathy fast which will be held here on Thursday, November 16. The fast will begin after lunch and continue until midnight. During the evening mealtime (6:30) participants will meet in Herrick chapel for a report on the progress of the trip, a reading of the group statement of purpose and a brief period of silence. You may sign up to participate in the lunch lines at Cowles and the Quad Wednesday and Thursday. Both faculty and students are invited to demonstrate their support of this movement publicly in the Thursday fast.

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WASHINGTON REPORT # 2

(Fasten your seatbelts)

Larry Smucker relayed the following schedule for Thursday's fast and related activity in Washington, today.

7:30 - The fast begins (the group will keep walking in front of the white house with signs and distributing statements of purpose.)

7:30 - 10:00 - The group will be filmed and interviewed by Telenews, national T.V. taping outfit

10:45 - A press conference is to be held at Gaunt House with the following representatives from press,radio and T.V..

Washington Post
Washington Evening Star
United Press International
Associated Press
Clark Mollenhoff
NBC - Peter Hackess
CBS
ABC

3:30 - End public vigil to go to a press conference with Marc Raskin, assistant to McGeorge Bundy, close assistant to the President of the United States.

In addition to this schedule, the group reported that several alums of Grinnell had called to wish them well..... They have been well-received in Washington, and the group is reported to be encouraged by the Grinnell support of the sympathy fast, and..... ....(Grinnellians are encouraged to read further coverage of the group's activities in the Des Moines Register and Tribune.)

AT OTHER SCHOOLS THE SNOWBALL HAS BEGUN....

-- Bluffton College in Ohio is sending a group of 15 to Washington Friday. They will arrive at 7:00P.. and fast from Saturday through Monday.

-- Carleton College is sending a group of 20 to Washington Monday. They will fast through Wednesday.

-- Oberlin College and Antioch College are making plans to follow thereafter.(More about this in tomorrow's bulletin.)

ABOUT THE SYMPATHY FAST.....

At the writing of this bulletin 159 students have signed up for the fast. You may still sign up in the lunch lines today at Cowles and the Quad.

Fasting will begin after lunch and continue until midnight. This is a token fast.

The fasters will meet in Herrick chapel at 6:30 to hear speakers and observe a few minutes of silence. The following people will speak to the group: Ray Horton,Phil Brown and Jill Dennington. We hope for press coverage of this event.

We urge you to support this group and the present presidential decision not to resume nuclear testing in the atmosphere. We should help to demonstrate that students are taking serious notice of the world beyond the campus.

Good Luck.

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WASHINGTON BULLETIN # 3

Thursday, the fasters in Washington picketed in front of the Whitehouse with signs saying,"We're behind Kennedy's peace race," and "Iowa Students Fasting for Peace." They were met by reporters and movie cameras as they marched. Reporters from ABC,CBS, WMAL T.V and WTOP T.V. interviewed members of the group. They were filmed by United Press, Movietone, and Telenews. They have now received both wire service coverage and radio and television recognition. Complete stories appeared in both the Washington Post and the Washington Evening Star. The Des Moines Register and Tribune have given them a great amout of space. Last night's half page Register coverage may be seen in the union.

At a press conference during the afternoon, Robert Hunt, Marguerite Davis and Frank Wilson were among those who sought interviews with the students.

*******At 4:00 Thursday the group had an interview with Mark Raskin, assistant to McGeorge Bundy, presidential advisor. The interview and discussion lasted about an hour. Raskin was reported to have been most cordial to the group.

The assistant to Bundy according to Larry Smucker was quite concerned about the tenure of college opinion. Horwatt stated that "there was fear and distress, and a great potential for constructive action."

At 5:00 Jack Chapman and Mike Horwatt went to the Russian desk at the State department, and discussed with state department officials the statements which were to be delivered to the Soviet Embassy today at 11:00.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE.....includes more interviews and picketing. The group will picket in the morning from 10:00 to 10:30. At 10:30 the group will go en masse to the Soviet Embassy for an appointment they have there. They will be accompanied by a Mr. Patakov of the State department. (more about this in tomorrows bulletin)

Picketing will be continued from 12:00 to 2:30 in the afternoon when the group will rest, having fasted and picketed now for two days.

AT OTHER SCHOOLS....

Bluffton and Carleton have sent final confirmation of their plans to go to Washington. Bluffton's spokesman is to be Jim Ross, 19 year old sophomore from Orrtenne Penn. Carleton's spokesman is Dan Styron, 20 year old junior from Lincoln, Massachusetts. These groups will follow Grinnell immediately to keep the continuity of the movement.

Antioch plans are in the making. The organization group here at Grinnell will contacted tomorrow for progress reports.

Oberlin, which had planned to picket even before Grinnell put its plans into action, will not fit its plans to the Grinnell scheme. They will go to Washington December first through third. Other schools which have been contacted are still making plans.

******* McClure McCombs, speaking for the American Friends Service Committee in Chicago, has asked the group to wire their arrival time in Chicago. He has expressed the interest of the Chicago group in the Grinnell movement, and has expressed his support of the group action.

*******280 students and 14 faculty members signed up for the token fast yesterday. Jill Dennington, Phil Brown and Ray Horton spoke to the group that assembled during the dinner hour in Herrick chapel.

Watch the papers; alert your congressmen.

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WASHINGTON BULLETIN #4 - "We did it."

The fourteen Grinnellians marching and fasting in support of the present presidential decision not to resume nuclear testing had a most encouraging Friday in Washington. As the Des Moines Register put it this morning," they almost hit the White House picket's jackpot." President Kennedy wired from Phoenix that the group was to be invited into the White House for coffee or fruit juice.

According to Larry Smucker, group correspondent, the fourteen did not know of the invitation until they saw it coming in over the NBC wire service. They had gone to NBC for a further talk with former Grinnellian, Peter Hackes.

The group was then contacted by the White House, and was received in the afternoon by presidential aide, McGeorge Bundy, president's assistant in Security affairs. They spent close to two hours with Bundy, who described them as "a thoughtful and sincere group." They declined even the offer of fruit juice, according to Mike Horwatt spokesman. They have been drinking only water, and eating no food since midnight, Wednesday. They will continue fasting until midnight, Saturday. According to Smucker, the group is very hungry. Veteran White House guards said this was the first picket group they could remember being asked into theWhite House. The fourteen also went to the Soviet Embassy yesterday where they expressed their distress at Soviet testing, and their hope that the Soviets would seek peace with the U.S. They were photographed many times during their visit, and appeared nationally over T.V. and in newspapers.

The group will continue fasting and picketing today. A good part of their time will be arranging contacts for a fourteen person group of picketers from Bluffton College in Ohio, who arrived last night. The Bluffton group will begin to march tomorrow.

Carleton will follow Bluffton on Tuesday, and Cornell College at Mount Vernon will send their group following that. Three representatives from the Grinnell organization on our campus visited Cornell yesterday to perfect plans, and confirm their intentions. It was reported by Phil Brown, head of the coordinating committee here, that several faculty members would accompany the Cornell group to Washington.

The Grinnellians in Washington also reported their concern for their old cars which they felt might not make it back home. The group will recuperate from the fast Sunday, and begin the trip home Monday at 9:00 in the morning. They should make it back 32 hours after that time.

Twenty-five members of the Grinnell faculty have endorsed the group's statement of purpose, and have shown sympathy with the action. This is much appreciated.

Write your congressmen and your newspapers.

(Mark Raskin expressed concern over the tenor, not tenure of College opinion.)

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WASHINGTON BULLETIN #5

This is the final issue of the bulletin. The group of fourteen will return from Washington toward early evening on Tuesday. Those who would like to welcome the group upon their return should be at the union by about 4:00 Tuesday.

The entire project has had greater success than any of us had ever hoped. A great snowball has begun. The group reported Saturday that Cornell University and Syracuse University sent down a group of 150 students who picketed, but did not fast all day Sunday.

Bluffton College and Carleton College groups are already in Washington. Bluffton began picketing and fasting yesterday; Carleton will join them Monday. Both groups are arousing sympathy and interest in their local papers and nationally as well. A group from Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa will follow the Carleton group. The Cornellians will be accompanied by two faculty members.

In addition the following schools have registered interest in forming a group: Wilmington, St. John, Chicago and Oberlin. The Oberlin group which was going to picket December 1 through 3 even before Grinnell formulated its plans is now considering becoming part of the Grinnell initiated Snowball. Antioch College may send some of their Washington co-ops to picket.

ABOUT THE FAST....

The group reported that it was too busy with interviews and picketing the first two days to feel at all sick. By Saturday night, however, Larry Smucker, correspondent for the group reported that the first real effects of the fast could be seen. The group was listless and weak he reported, and many were suffering from headaches and nausea. The group stopped fasting Saturday night at twelve o'clock when they were served hamburgers and soup at the home of Michael Horwatt, group spokesman, in Falls Church Virginia.

AND THE YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM WERE THERE TOO....

On Saturday, the group was harassed by seven YAF pickets who marched in an oval about the Grinnell group. The pickets carried signs that said: "I like Nike," "I'd rather be fed than red," and "butter will make us fat; guns will make us strong." The YAF pickets had coffee and fried chicken sent into their group. This they ate in front of the Grinnell group which had not eaten in two and a half days. The Grinnell group remained passive, and were joined soon after the YAF group came, by the pickets from Bluffton. The peace marchers then numbered 30. According to Mike Horwatt, the YAF group did not, in his opinion in any way harm the initial good impression which the Grinnell marchers had made.

Both the co-ordinating committee here on campus, and the group in Washington would like to thank all of you who have given of your time and money for this cause. We would also like to thank those of you who have been polite and tolerant in spite of the fact that your sympathies lay in other directions.

A special thank you must go to those faculty members who allowed the group to call collect on their home phones so that this bulletin might be put out, and Grinnellians might be kept informed of the progress in Washington first hand.

And now the return to academics....