

The Peacemaker

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'Peace Pilgrim Starts Eastward on Coast to Coast Journey

Making a three-fold plea for an active peace program, a very earnest young lady has begun a pilgrimage across the United States on foot, carrying her message of peace to every city and village through which she passes.

This modest young lady prefers to be called Peace Pilgrim not so much because of her modesty, but chiefly because she feels it imperative that the coast to coast journey be a movement of the Spirit of Peace from West to East across the land.

It is easy to see how the real purpose of the journey could become obscured if emphasis were placed on the personal aspect of the trip. So the *Peacemaker* accedes to her request and her name in our reports of the pilgrimage shall be Peace Pilgrim.

Leaving Los Angeles, California on New Year's day Peace Pilgrim moved southward toward San Diego. She has no definite schedule or route, but plans in general to cross through the Southwest during the colder season of the year. Thus she may be expected in Arizona and New Mexico during the next couple of months.

Her message to people wherever she meets them is:

"My friends, the world situation is grave. Humanity, with fearful, faltering steps, walks a knife-edge between abysmal chaos and a new renaissance, while strong forces push toward chaos. Unless we, the people of the world, awake from our lethargy and push firmly and quickly away from chaos, all that we cherish will be destroyed in the holocaust which will descend.

"The way to peace? Overcome evil

with good, and falsehood with truth, and hatred with love. The Golden Rule would do just a well. Please don't say lightly that these are just religious concepts and not practical. These are laws governing human conduct, which apply as rigidly as the law of gravity. When we disregard these laws in any walk of life chaos results. Through obedience to these laws this frightened, war-weary world of ours could enter into a period of peace and richness of life beyond our fondest hopes."

She carries with her three pleas in the form of petitions. They are pleas for peace in Korea, for world disarmament and reconstruction and for a peace department in the US Government. Signers of the first petition are requested to send it to anyone who may have power to end the war in Korea. Peace Pilgrim will present the other two petitions in person to the President of the U.S. when she reaches Washington, D.C. and to the United Nations when she reaches New York City.

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Will *Peacemaker* readers please keep us informed of any news regarding the journey of Peace Pilgrim? We would appreciate information regarding her whereabouts at any time and accounts of her reception by people along the way.

Those who have the privilege of meeting Peace Pilgrim are saying that they value highly the experience. So others should look forward to greeting her along the way and arranging for other people to hear the message of this Peace Pilgrim.

—L. D.

Peacemaker Participates in Latin-American Picket Against Trujillo; Asks if Non-Violence Could be Taught to the Group

BY ROBERT S. AUERBACH

Carrying a coffin bearing the name of one of Dictator Trujillo's murder victims, groups representing united opposition to the Santo Domingo ruler picketed him at the hotel where he is staying in Washington, D.C. The pickets hoped to thwart Trujillo in his efforts to carry favor with President Eisenhower.

The bulk of the pickets arrived at the Mayflower Hotel a little after 10 a.m. and a top policeman greeted Nicholas Silfa and courteously informed him that

regulations prohibited picketing within 500 feet of the hotel (presumably because a foreign diplomat was in residence there). Mr. Silfa made no objections to the police then or at any time during the picketing. The police led us more than a block north of the hotel where we began picketing. A higher brass in the police department arrived and pointed out just where we could walk. A still higher brass arrived who was an inspector I recognized as one of

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Ray Arvio Gets Year and a Day

Raymond Arvio, administrative assistant for the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors and field representative for the War Resisters League was sentenced January 23 to serve a year and a day in prison for refusal to report for induction into the army.

Arvio declared his opposition to any cooperation at all with the draft law. He pled nolo contendere to the charges. In a statement to the court he said, "I cannot cooperate with war or selective service, because they are based on wrong principles of action, and my conscience demands that I refuse to participate in both. I believe that men can and do respond to the goodwill in all men. I believe that, even under the threat of dictatorship and tyranny, we must still use the way of non-violence, the weapon of the strong. War has failed to end war. I believe the course of action I have taken is the only moral one left to peacemakers."

Copies of Arvio's statement were handed out to spectators in the hall of the Federal Court Building following the sentencing. Arvio is married and the father of a three months old daughter.

Arvio was a student at Rutgers at the time he registered. Subsequent to his registration he decided that he could no longer cooperate with conscription, even to the extent of seeking C.O. classification.

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Danish WRI Member Arrested, Sentenced on Draft Charge

Jens Vestergaard, a member of the Danish Section of the War Resisters' International, on being called up for Military Service, applied to be allowed to do the recognized alternative work in Denmark. Instead he was called up for Civil Defense work which he would not accept.

He was arrested, tried and sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment. The Danish Section "Aldrig mere Krig" engaged a lawyer on his behalf and his case was brought before an Appeal Court, with the result that the sentence was reduced to 60 days' imprisonment. The Danish Section of WRI is now considering whether they will make an appeal to the High Court.

The case of Jens Vestergaard was mentioned in the Danish Parliament by a Radical Member who protested against this treatment and asked the Danish Minister of the Interior to transfer Jens Vestergaard to the alternative service work for which he had applied, and which, of course, is open to those in Denmark registering as war resisters.