

"White Train" Slowed Down Again

by Jim Stiak

It was only after 16 hours of talk and action that the emotions rose like a choke in the throat. Several hundred demonstrators were cheering and singing, and the ringing of the train's bell lingered in the misty air. Between the shoulders of the Washington State patrolmen who lined the tracks could be seen the people who had chosen to be arrested. Pregnant women sat next to white-haired elders in the cold dirt between the steel rails, clutching arms and singing to control the fear that shivered in their faces.

It turned out to be simple, this act of being arrested to protest the "white train" and its cargo of nuclear weapons for the Trident submarine. Each person sitting on the tracks—the 35 teen-aged members of the "youth" group, the joking bearded men and nervous young women—was approached, closely, by the same Vancouver city police lieutenant. After being read their rights, each demonstrator would nod, and a pair of helmeted police would place their arms behind their backs, then "cuff" them with long plastic zippy strips, like you might use to tie up a garbage bag. They were carried away, feet dragging through the mud, their picture snapped with a Polaroid. Then they were loaded into vans and taken to the Clarke County courthouse, where, explained press officer Dan Jones of the Vancouver police, they would be "booked and released, if they cooperate."

But, as the big Burlington-Northern locomotive and its deadly load squeaked to a stop, a wave of apprehension spread. A raucous cheer went up from the assembled, arms and banners waved, and the troopers' eyes darted searching for the unexpected. Some of the sitting protestors clenched their jaws, as if anti-



Photograph by David Stein

Demonstrators sit in the path of the "white train," a twice-yearly Department of Energy special believed to be carrying nuclear warheads from Texas to the Trident submarine base in Bangor, Washington. 106 people were arrested for blocking the train in Vancouver, Washington, on Feb. 22.

icipating the hard blow of a billy club. But no one broke, nothing gave. All the participants, from both sides, had studied the script, it seemed. With uncanny orderliness the arrests proceeded, the train inched forward, and the people who had put their bodies on the line had shown how easy it was.

Twice as many protestors were arrested as the last time the train rolled through town. Although the 90-minute delay was little

more than symbolic, it seems unlikely the protestors' numbers will diminish with subsequent visits. As the ominous load finally rattled through the switching yard, to the cheers of the un-arrested, thin slits could be seen near the tops of the armored cars. Peering eyes, trapped in those sunless cars, were visible through the slits. And, as the Washington's birthday demonstration slowly disbanded, did George in his grave, 3,000 miles away, smile?

Tax Resisters Workshop

by Jim Stiak

As every good citizen is so painfully aware, it's that time of year again when Uncle Sam insists we pay our dues. This year, however, a group of local people are questioning what the government is doing with their tax billions. Instead of rendering unto Caesar, this group, calling themselves the Eugene War Tax Resisters Support Group, has scheduled a public workshop for Saturday, March 2, to explain the ways and means of tax resistance.

Income tax has traditionally been used to finance wars—Britain instituted theirs to fight Napoleon, while Yankee America's first was during the Civil War. Currently, military spending devours almost two-thirds of the federal budget. To protest this dubious use of their funds, a growing number of people, about a thousand in Oregon according to the IRS, are refusing to pay their federal income taxes.

The Eugene group has been meeting regularly, swapping stories and bureaucratic threats, to explore the limits of the IRS's fabled power. "If I'm sitting at home alone and I get a threatening notice, it's very scary," says Kiya Smith, "but I can come here and everybody says, 'Oh yeah—

those! I've got a whole pile of them'."

After her refusal to pay her federal income tax, Kiya heard the proverbial knock on the door, and found an IRS agent on her step, "casing the joint," she says, "looking for treasures they could get their hands on." Although he left with only brief answers to his questions, the agent returned a couple months later, leaving a note on her door: "Call me right away." When Kiya called, however, she was told he was away for the month. She's yet to hear from him again. When Nancy Clogston stopped paying her taxes, she received a steady stream of letters and demands from the IRS, and among them, a \$20 refund for overpayment on her previous year's taxes. Another member of the group got away with non-payment of her taxes

one year when the IRS moved too slowly, and the statute of limitations apparently expired.

It's such lack of internal communications that the Tax Resisters would like to publicize. The agency is, after all, huge, unwieldy, and very fallible. Intimidation is their most effective weapon—confiscation of property is rare. "But they usually do get the money withheld," says Nancy. "You just hope it costs them more to get it than they're getting."

For those interested in pursuing this form of war resistance, or for the curious, the workshop will be held Saturday afternoon, 1-5, at the Koinonia Center, 14th and Kincaid. Childcare and treats will be provided. Coming up from Ashland for the event will be John and Shannon Stahner, who will share their experiences of years of such peace activism.

HEALTH FOOD AND POOL STORE

Large Selection of Cheeses

PARMESAN & ROMANO \$3.98 lb.
SVENBO SWISS \$2.55 lb. FETA \$2.98 lb.
RAW MILK CHEDDAR \$2.39 lb.
MOZZERELLA \$2.49 lb. PROVOLONE \$2.69 lb.
BAVARIAN BLUE CAMEMBERT \$5.80 lb.

Fresh Deli Sandwiches

Open
M-F 9-7 Sat. 9-6

141 N. 3rd Street
Springfield, Oregon

Phone
747-1532

A Grand Finale For Any Evening...

After a hard day's work, or for a quiet end to a special evening—come to Onsen. Relax your mind as you gaze up at the stars. Pamper your weary muscles in a tub of warm rushing water. Unwind and enjoy—any night of the week.

ONSEN
HOURLY HOT TUB RENTALS

Taking reservations until 11:30 p.m. weekdays, until 12:45 on weekends. Call 345-9048.
1883 Garden Ave. Eugene

◆ HOMEMADE SOUP AND BREAD ◆

KEYSTONE CAFE

◆ FIVE YEARS OF NOURISHING OUR COMMUNITY ◆

THIS WEEKEND'S DINNER SPECIAL:

Chicken Tostada
with rice
\$3.50

Breakfast and Lunch 7 am-2 pm daily
Dinner 5:30-9:30 pm Friday, Saturday & Sunday
395 West 5th ◆ 342-2075.

have you seen the **JEWELRY** at Folkways?

Contemporary and ethnic rings, bracelets, earrings, pins and pendants from \$2 to \$68

• 762 E. 13th Ave. next to the Excelsior 343-8667 • FIFTH ST MARKET downstairs 683-2204

FOLKWAYS IMPORTS
Natural Fibre Clothing and Folk Art from around the World