

processed infant formula is important for improving infant nutrition and reducing infant deaths in the Third World. The report also disclaims studies showing harm caused by the formula.

Boycott leaders base their charges on both studies Nestle disclaims and on reports of missionaries, doctors, Peace Corps volunteers and other workers in Third World nations.

The testimony of South African Dr. Naomi Baumslag before the Senate subcommittee on health and scientific research is one example of the personal reports which aroused the anger of church groups.

Baumslag was a public health officer working in the township of Soweto, South Africa, and her testimony covers most charges of the boycotters.

Baumslag says the formula companies use every advertising medium available and advertise heavily through hospitals and doctors. She says this is respon-

sible for the decline in breast feeding among Soweto mothers.

"Fifteen years ago nearly all mothers breast-fed for prolonged periods," the doctor says. "This is not now the case."

"Since the majority of the Soweto population live below the poverty line and cannot afford to use the formula," Baumslag continues, "the formula has to be 'stretched' so that it lasts two weeks instead of three to four days."

The doctor adds that the formula is frequently diluted and says "A recent study in Soweto showed that 41.6 per cent of mothers had no method for cleaning their feeding bottles."

The doctor reports further that kwashiorkor, a disease caused by protein deficiency, occurs at an earlier age than ever before, six to eight months, and is found exclusively in bottle-fed infants at that age.

Nestle's report discounts "personal experience" with the use of

the formula. It quotes from a report of the Human Lactation Center paid for by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"Information on mortality, the incidence of breast feeding, the content of infant food, and the amount of breast milk, tend to be impressionistic reports by well-meaning Western or Western-trained persons."

Boycott leaders react strongly to this contention.

Dr. Michael Latham, director of Cornell University's international nutrition program, calls Nestle's statement that formula helps cut down infant deaths "statistical nonsense."

"Infant mortality rates in New York City declined markedly between 1940 and 1970 while addiction to heroin increased and the divorce rate rose dramatically. But no one, except a Nestle magician, would argue that infant deaths were reduced by heroin or divorce," he says.

Arrest of Eugene activist draws nationwide criticism

The recent arrest of a Eugene activist has become a national issue, says Infant Formula Action Committee representative Doug Clement.

Cindy Kokis was arrested at Valley River Center three weeks ago when she refused to leave VRC for distributing "political" material.

"We think it deserves national attention," Clement says. The arrest marks the first time an INFACT volunteer has been arrested and the first time the organization has been criticized for activities related to the International Year of the Child, which the United Nations declared 1979.

Year of the Child displays, including INFACT tables, have been shown throughout the U.S. and Kokis was staffing the INFACT table at the Year of the Child display at VRC when she was singled out and asked to leave because the display was "too political."

Dick Hanson, VRC manager, cited a long-standing policy against political activities in the mall in his decision to have Kokis arrested for trespassing.

Kokis says she was unfairly discriminated against in being arrested because a number of other displays contained information which might be considered political. Kokis also pointed out that a Right to Life table opposing abortion was also a part of the display.

Clement calls the arrest "an obvious abridgment of the rights of Cindy Kokis" and says he hopes it will bring needed attention to the infant formula controversy.

Concern over Kokis' arrest was also expressed by Jean Young, national chair of the International Year of the Child and wife of Ambassador Andrew Young.

"The availability of information on the risk of infant formula when used under certain circumstances is a vital part of the dialogue (on children's issues) that ought to be encouraged," Young says.

No trial date has been set for Kokis.

Hospitalized man still won't talk

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Rev. Maurice McCrackin, a prison reform advocate jailed for refusing to answer questions about three men who allegedly took him hostage, remained hospitalized from the effects of a hunger strike on Tuesday while courts weighed his fate.

"It's not that easy to understand his moral conditions. It's been a long time since anyone read the Sermon on the Mount and applied it to the judicial system," concluded Robert Newman, attorney for the 73-year-old McCrackin.

Newman has filed a motion to at least temporarily free the minister, who was jailed Jan. 19. McCrackin was found in contempt of court for refusing to answer questions from a Hamilton County grand jury about three prison es-

capees who allegedly kidnapped him and another man last November.

"How can I go and testify against a prisoner when it is the state of Ohio that is responsible for the vast injustice, degradation and horror that is Lucasville prison?" said McCrackin, a long-time prison reform advocate.

"Appearing before the jury would be a moral compromise that I am not prepared to make."

The 1st Ohio District Court of Appeals on Tuesday continued proceedings on Newman's request for immediate freedom until McCrackin is able to appear in court personally to give evidence that he desired such action.

Meanwhile, McCrackin's appeal of a contempt of court conviction is to be argued in about two weeks.

He also refused to sign a bond or cite constitutional reasons for his actions, calling it a "moral issue."

Currently, he is hospitalized for intravenous feeding because he has refused to eat since entering jail. Doctors at General Hospital said he has lost more than 20 pounds.

After escaping from a deputy sheriff last November, three inmates from the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility at Lucasville fled to Cincinnati with a hostage who they left at McCrackin's house, police said. The hostage and McCrackin were tied up, but unhurt, and the prisoners left in McCrackin's car, according to police.

Two of the escapees were later captured. The third was killed by a man he had taken hostage in Michigan.

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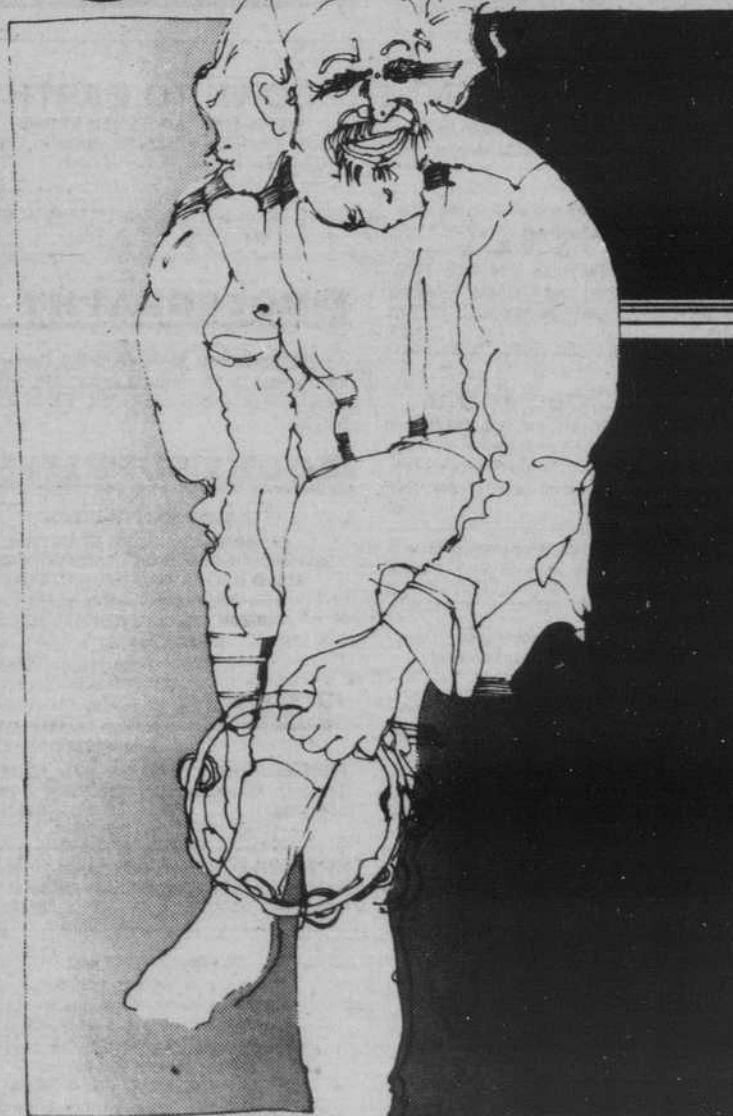
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