

# METROPOLITAN



Ben Sasway, first draft registration resister to be prosecuted, speaks to Portland rally. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## One small pebble . . .

By Catherine Siegner

Ben Sasway, the first draft registration resister prosecuted under the reinstated federal law, spoke to an enthusiastic crowd in downtown Portland Wednesday afternoon, April 20. He described his experiences and explained his reasons for opposing the draft and draft registration.

Speaking across from the Armed Forces Recruiting Station where earlier, pickets opposed to U.S. military intervention in Central America had marched, Sasway, 22, said he had "refused the all-expenses-paid trip to the jungles of El Salvador and Nicaragua."

He countered claims that draft registration is not an actual draft.

"This list (of eligible young men) is not to help distribute the federal cheese surplus—it's to fight a war. The mechanism is in place, the cards are printed."

Sasway said the U.S. government's actions in Central America of late are "strikingly similar to things that have happened in the recent past."

"First, the bullets, the parts, the

advisers, then troops (are sent)," he said. "It reminds me of Vietnam."

Sasway stressed he is "not just a draft resister. I want people to see the interconnections here, not just the events, but the attitudinal problems that create them."

"Crisis situations are met with tough talk. We don't hear compassion and compromise," he said. "Well, I think we have to let the El Salvadoreans and Nicaraguans decide what kind of government they want."

Sasway told the crowd that a question "I'm asked a lot is—what can one person do? Like Gandhi said, one small pebble in the lake disturbs the surface."

He said he believes everyone should "take a moral stand and take responsibility for our own lives."

"That doesn't mean everybody has to resist the way I did, but everyone needs to take responsibility and take control of our collective future."

"We must change the crazy policies of the Reagan Administration."

In an interview, Sasway, of San Diego, said he has been touring "on and off" around the country

addressing draft registration and the interconnected issues. He is out of jail after serving 40 days between his conviction and sentencing last October to 2½ years in prison. His case is now being appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court.

"The decision from the 9th Circuit is expected in June (1983)," Sasway explained. "If it is denied, I will appeal to the Supreme Court. I feel more strongly today than before."

Sasway said his legal fees are partially being paid by a draft resister's defense fund in San Diego and his attorneys are working on a *pro bono* basis (donating their services).

He said he's "not real optimistic about the June decision. I don't think the judicial system will permit a basic cornerstone of American policy to be defeated."

Acknowledging the tricky question of whether he's advocating others to resist the draft and draft registration, Sasway insisted he's not doing so.

"My attempt is not to talk people into resisting. It's to encourage debate on these issues."

## Oregon wins HUD-SBA grant

The State of Oregon is one of twenty-one states selected for the new HUD-SBA Small Business Revitalization Program.

The program was announced last October by President Ronald Reagan, who indicated the goal for investment is \$5 billion, with 300,000 new private sector jobs anticipated.

The twenty-one states that will participate in Phase I were selected on the basis of their commitment to assign specific Economic Development professionals to focus full time on the job creation potential of small business, commitments by the governors to obtain private sector investment of long term capital for small business plants and equipment, and the state's commitment to develop a local self-sustaining economic development delivery system.

The goal is to use federal funds such as the Community Development Block Grant program; the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) program, which is designed to foster efforts to rebuild communities; the Small Business Administration's Section 503 Certified Development Company program, which provides federally guaranteed debenture funding to state, local and private funding for loans at the local community level to small business; and state economic development resources.

The HUD-SBA program requires minority participation. Within four weeks of acceptance of the program, the governor must establish a Small Business Economic Development Corporation whose function will be to advise the Governor on marketing and administering the program. Members of this board are to come from: minority business organizations, financial institutions, small business associations, industrial/

commercial realtors, accountant and attorney organizations, trade associations and unions, other trade development organizations. The National Development Council, a non-profit corporation established by the federal government to assist the states, will participate in the selection of members.

HUD regulations for UDAG state specifically that one of the selection criteria for UDAG, which has funded over \$2.49 in projects during the past five years, is minority business participation. Employment impact for minorities and for low and moderate income people is also a selection factor.

HUD Secretary Samuel R. Pierce, Jr. has set a 7 percent national minority participation goal for its Section 202 Housing program. Regional goals will be based on minority populations. Section 202 makes direct loans to finance rental or cooperative housing for the elderly and handicapped. Loans are used to construct or substantially rehabilitate projects sponsored by private non-profit organizations.

Historically, minorities have not participated substantially in Section 202 projects. A drive to assist minority organizations to participate is underway.

### Attention Kathy Lorenz

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## Urban 4-H holds fair

The fifth 4-H International Fair will be held on April 30th at the Matt Dishman Center, 77 N.E. Knott. The time is from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Urban 4-H International Fair is to expose young people early in life with the

multitude of cultural and racial differences in the world. Americans tend to divide the world into simplistic terms, East and West, Black and White. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the International Fair will be worth a thousand speeches and lectures about the brotherhood of mankind.



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