

Sunday Walk for Peace

by milt t.

Flashing V signs and smiling, a thousand anti-war demonstrators marched last Sunday from the downtown Federal Center to City Park, where several speakers rapped to them about political and social injustices that have happened as a result of the Vietnamese War.

The march, a show of support for the large Moratorium Day marches in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco on November 14 and 15, was sponsored by the Colorado New Mobilization Committee to End the War; persons representing the American Friends Service Committee, Crusade for Justice, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, SDS, Student Mobilization Committee, Black Panther Party, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom participated in the orderly, non-violent march.

Accompanied by police escort, the demonstrators, marching several blocks long along E. 17th Ave., chanted anti-war slogans-- "Bring the troops home now," "Stop the war, feed the poor," and "Power to the people"--and called on spectators to join. Attempts by some to lead the crowd in more militant chants, such as "Bring the war home" received little response from this reporter's segment of the demonstration, which proceed peacefully to City Park in

accordance with the city parade permit issued to sponsors of the march.

Speakers from the park pavilion, introduced by Denver lawyer Eugene Deikman, included Lee Weiner, one of the defendants in the Chicago Conspiracy trial, Michael Tiger, a U.C.L.A. law professor, Ernesto Vigil of the Crusade for Justice and editor of El Gallo, a Denver Chicano paper, Bob Lemay, executive director of the American Servicemen's Union, and Denver Black Panther Andrew Austin tin.

Weiner rapped about the proceedings of his trial in Julius Hoffman's court; he spoke of the necessity that the trial be stopped, as it was a threat to the rights of all individuals, and urged those in the audience who were planning to attend the Washington march to also join a march on the "Injustice Department," as a protest against the trial.

Tiger discussed the casualties suffered by minority group soldiers in Vietnam while their brothers and sisters are being oppressed in the United States. In reference to the Conspiracy Trial, Tiger charged that U.S. officials have been tampering with the jury, and pointed out that the treatment of Black Panther Bob Seale (who was chained to his

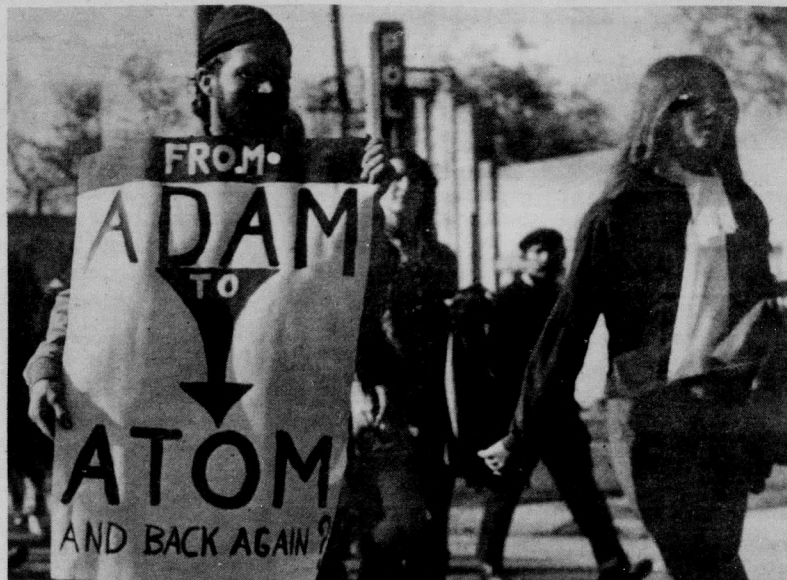
chair and gagged, and subsequently sentenced to four years for contempt as a result of demanding his right to defend himself in court) showed the racist character of judge Julius Hoffman.

Vigil has been indicted for resisting an arrest ruled in court to have been illegal, following distribution of anti-war leaflets at his scheduled induction into the military earlier this year; he has also been charged with refusing induction, though he was being held in jail at the time he was to have been inducted.

Lemay related to the group instances of brutality and denial of rights that have been suffered by GI's who have tried to organize against the war, or have expressed opposition to military policies; he said that GI's would not be intimidated in asserting their rights as American Citizens.

Before the speeches began, Deikman called on all the "courageous" servicemen who had participated in the march to show themselves; approximately twenty-five, all in civilian clothes, responded from the audience, to loud applause.

Following the rally, many people toured the nearby zoo or strolled about the sunny park, all with peace in their hearts.



photos by Carl Stone