CITIZENS FOR PARTICIPATION POLITICS
11 SOUTH STREET - BOSTON - MASSACHUSETTS 02111 426-3040

THE READING ABM MEETING: CITIZEN ACTION TO STOP NUCLEAR MISSILES IN MASSACHUSETTS

On Wednesday, 29 January, the citizens of the Greater Reading-Lynnfield area met with the officials responsible for the construction of the Boston area Anti-Ballistic Missile site, at a public gathering officially sponsored by the U.S. Army. General Robert Young, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who is slated to be in charge of construction of the site attempted to outline the project in simplistic terms of drainage and landscaping. However, the 1300 concerned residents in the audience were more concerned with the fundamental policy questions of the need and sanity of construction of such a multi-megaton system in the suburbs of Boston, or indeed anywhere. Local residents pointed out that their homes and lives were more threatened than protected by such a prime target being built in their neighborhood. Housewives and homeowners argued for federal spending on needed domestic programs instead of in an accelerated missile race with China and Russia. Area political experts such as Richard Goodwin explained that the ABM concept was unworkable, leading only to a false sense of security, and would point the way toward continued spending and expansion in the vain attempt to establish an anti-Soviet system.

Noted scientists and engineers, including George Rathjens and Leo Sartori of M.I.T. questioned the military's view that the danger of fallout was "essentially nil", pointing out that if there were an accidental nuclear explosion on the ground, it would obliterate the area in a five-mile radius, including Reading, North Reading, Lynnfield, Stoneham, Melrose, etc., and that the entire system could be evaded with relative ease by enemy use of decoys and irregular routes. General Young contradicted himself by referring to the system as both "offensive" and "anti-Soviet", but he plainly was uninformed in regard to the philosophical or political aspects of the subject, and he strove vainly to return the discussion to mechanical problems of access road locations and demands on local sewage systems.

Long before the conclusion of the meeting it was obvious that the military engineers sent to Reading could not answer the many questions posed by the residents and scientists, and that they intended to proceed with construction "unless contrary orders were issued through the proper channels of the Administration".

In view of the unsatisfactory answers, the local people of Reading and Lynnfield have formed anti-ABM Citizens Committees to fight this encroachment of the military on their lives and land. The issue should be of concern to all residents of eastern Massachusetts, and indeed to all of New England and the United States.

It is encouraging that Senators Kennedy and Brooke have already responded to the growing public demand of local citizens that the whole issue of ABMs be re-evaluated. Both Senators have expressed doubts about the efficacy of the Sentinel system, and Senator Kennedy has stated further that he fears the dangers of possible nuclear escalation which such a system could engender.

On February 4th, Massachusetts Senate President Maurice Donahue and the entire Senate passed a resolution expressing grave concern regarding the wisdom of such a system and calling for suspension of construction until such time as a re-evaluation of the project shall have been made.

YOU CAN HELP. . . . . Local chapters of Citizens for Participation Politics have already mobilized in several north shore communities. You can:

* Circulate petitions demanding Congressional public hearings to be held in each district directly or indirectly affected by ABMs.

* Write letters directly to your Senators (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) and Congressmen (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515) demanding immediate legislative re-evaluation of ABM appropriations, and a delay in construction until further studies have been made.

* Request that the ABM issue be placed on the agenda of your local town meeting, or on the ballot as a referendum question in up-coming municipal elections.

* Seek out local candidates who will take a stand against the ABM program, and pressure others as publicly as possible.

* Set up a local sub-committee which can work on regional publicity with the newly-formed "New England Citizens' Committee on ABM". Richard Goodwin and Abram Chayes are the Committee's co-chairmen, & CPP has offered space for them at the State Headquarters, 11 South Street, Boston. This sub-committee could help support other citizens groups in the Reading-Lynnfield area.

Additional citizens groups in Seattle, Wash. and Detroit, Mich. have successfully delayed installation of similar nuclear ABM sites in their areas. CPP can help to do the same here. For further information on petitions for your district, knowledgeable speakers on the subject of ABMs, suggestions for local political pressure, contact one of the following:

Jane Sharp - Caroline Stouffer - Richard Cauchi
CITIZENS FOR PARTICIPATION POLITICS
11 South Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111 (426-3040)

in cooperation with:

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS, BOSTON BRANCH
MASSACHUSETTS POLITICAL ACTION FOR PEACE (PAX)
NEWTON COALITION FOR NEW POLITICS
VOICE OF WOMEN-NEW ENGLAND

NEW ENGLAND CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON ABM
11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111
482-6155

February Newsletter

Grass roots pressure has made the ABM system a national issue. Citizen groups in Seattle, Detroit, and Chicago have successfully opposed the confirmation of Sentinel ABM sites in those areas; in New York, Missouri, and California, groups are now forming ready to mount opposition to proposed sites. Construction in the Boston area has been halted pending a review of the entire ABM system. During this Pentagon review there have been a number of leaks which have given rise to considerable confusion as to which direction the administration intends to take, which could have the effect of dampening the opposition to ABM. We have been told about the "Hard Point" and the "Thin Thin" systems and the possibility of retaining "Sentinel" but simply moving it from large urban centers. Our opposition to Sentinel in particular and the entire ABM system in general has never been simply a question of site location; the issue is much larger. All members of Congress should understand that ABM deployment in almost any form, far from increasing the security of the U.S., could lead to a dangerous escalation of the arms race and a squandering of the national resources. We should not be satisfied until the entire program has been abandoned.

Since the meeting at Reading High School on January 29th, public awareness of the issue has increased and a growing number of politicians have come out against ABM. In Massachusetts, Senators Brooke and Kennedy, Congressmen Boland, Donahue, Heckler, Macdonald, Morse, and O'Neill have indicated their opposition. Congressmen Bates, Burke, Conte, McCormack, and Philbin remain non-committal (and should receive more mail). To date, Governor Francis Sargent has taken no public position on the issue.

Locally, both Boston and Cambridge City Councils have introduced resolutions opposing ABM. On February 4th, the Massachusetts Senate passed a resolution calling for a halt to construction of ABM sites in the state. There will be a public hearing before the Massachusetts Public Safety Committee on Wednesday, 26 February at 7.30 P.M. in the John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley Street, Boston. We urge you to attend this important forum to voice your opposition to the whole concept of ABM.

In Stoneham, Lynnfield, Reading and North Andover, the Selectmen have put their opposition to ABM on record, as has the Newton City Democratic Committee. You should request that the ABM issue be put on the agenda of your local town or city meeting, or, if time permits, as a referendum question in up-coming municipal elections.

For schedule of future meetings on the ABM issue, please turn over.

In addition to the State hearing on the 26th February, several town A. B. M. groups are holding public meetings:

Tuesday, 25 February at 7.30 p.m. - North Andover High School

Speakers will include Mr. Ralph Huenemann from Harvard
Prof. George W. Rathjens from M. I. T.
Congressman Williams Bates has been invited.
Sponsored by North Andover-Boxford Citizens Opposed to A. B. M.
Information: Nathaniel Gifford 1-686-7533
Beth Myszowski 1-682-6546

Wednesday, 26 February at 7.30 p.m. - John Hancock Hall, Boston
Every effort should be made to attend.

Thursday, 27 February at 8.00 p.m. - Alcott School, Concord
Speakers: Prof. Abram Chayes of the Harvard Law School
Prof. George W. Rathjens of M. I. T.
Sponsored by Lincoln, Concord, Carlisle A. B. M. groups
Information: Jeremy Stone 1-369-5317 (office number: 227-0730)

Tuesday, 4 March, from 9.30 a.m. on - at M. I. T. - "Research Stoppage" to protest government misuse of technology

Speakers include: Prof. Hans Bethe
Prof. Matthew Meselson
Prof. Salvador Luria
Prof. Howard Zinn
Sponsored by the Union of Concerned Scientists
Information: Prof. Francis Low 864-6900 x 3713
Jonathan Kabat 864-6900 x 4775

Thursday, 6 March at 8.00 p.m. - Church of the Epiphany, Hadley Hall, Church Street, Winchester

Speakers: Prof. George W. Rathjens of M. I. T.
Prof. Edgar Bottome of B. U.
Sponsored by the Winchester Citizens Committee on A. B. M.
Information: Mrs. Ann Danley 729-8564

Monday, 10 March at 8.00 p.m. - Mason-Rice School, Pleasant St., Newton

"ABM - Present Danger? Future Threat?" Professor Bernard T. Feld

Sponsored by the Newton ABM Committee 332-6507
the Newton Community Peace Center 332-9110

Attendance at the meeting in your community will demonstrate your concern, as will your letters to Congress stressing that you are opposed to the ABM system anywhere in the United States.

The New England Citizens Committee on ABM plans to meet with other regional groups in Washington, D.C. for a national conference on ABM early in March. We are coordinating local ABM groups and have available a bureau of speakers, literature, petitions, buttons, and bumper stickers. Your contributions and any volunteer assistance you can offer at 11 South Street, Boston 02111, or in your own community, are most welcome.

CITIZENS FOR PARTICIPATION POLITICS

and

BOSTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

INVITE YOU TO AN OPEN FORUM AND RALLY:

The Great A.B.M. Debate

Featuring:

DR. PATRICK J. FRIEL,
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for ballistic missile defense; vice-president of Block Engineering

DR. EDGAR BOTTOME,
Professor of Government Department of Boston University; specialist on Governmental Defense Policy.

DR. ABRAM CHAYES,
Former Legal Advisor to the U.S. Dept. of State, 1961-64; co-author of "Kennedy Report" on ABM, 1969.

Free Speech Period -- 6:30-7:30
Speakers -- 7:30 PM
Question & Answer period follows

WEDNESDAY

Boston Common - JUNE 11

(Parkman Bandstand)

CPP, 11 South St, Boston; tel: 426-3040

UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

P.O. BOX 289
Cambridge, Mass 02139

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CPP STATE CONVENTION

The Union of Concerned Scientists grew out of the March 4th "Research Stoppage" which took place at M.I.T. The U.C.S. now consists of well over 200 members from M.I.T., Harvard, and many other universities in the greater Boston area, with other contacts throughout the country. Although the membership at the moment is primarily made up of faculty members and students, the U.C.S. is open to any interested person. The primary commitment desired is one of contributing time to the activities of the organizations.

The work of the U.C.S. is done through a number of action groups. Some of these which may be of interest to C.P.P. in terms of impact at the local political level, are:

1. Anti-Ballistic Missile. This group, headed by Dr. Gottfried of MIT, has been very active. Their booklet, "ABM-ABC", has been widely distributed to the public and to Congress. This group will supply speakers and backgrond material to local organizations seeking to arouse public sentiment and/or influence legislators in opposition to the A.B.M.

2. Pollution Studies and Environmental Research. Several groups, under the direction of Drs. R. Probstein, J. Fay, and H. Kendall (of M.I.T.) have begun investigation of such topics as sources and control of air and water pollution, medical effects, influences on control legislation, etc. Again, their results will be available to local groups seeking to effect local action in this area.

3. Legislative Liaison. During a scientific meeting in Washington several weeks ago, this group, directed by Dr. Teplitz of M.I.T., established contacts with a number of Congressmen and Senators. This committee is also compiling dossiers on legislators in key committee posts.

4. Urban Problems. This group is being directed by Prof. F. Low, of M.I.T.

5. Speakers Bureau. Coordinated by Dr. Jon Allen (M.I.T., ext. 2509), this committee will try to provide suitable speakers to interested local groups.

Other activities include work on biomedical engineering (population control, etc.), Chemical and bacteriological warfare, disarmament and the defense budget, and student problems (the draft, channeling into war-related research, etc.). Further information on these or other activities of the U.C.S. may be obtained from either:

Prof. M. Eden (Chairman of the Steering Committee)
Room 20D-219, M.I.T.

Prof. J. Steinfeld (External Affairs Subcommittee)
Room 2-221, M.I.T.