

after witness raised the broader issue of the unconventional use to which Lockheed would put the land.

The commissioners cut off the testimony of Robert Aldridge, a former Lockheed engineer, who said the county's land was being used for development of a "first-strike" weapon. The crowd protested, the commission relented, and witness after witness rose to speak about the impact of nuclear weaponry on the peace, health, and safety of Santa Cruz County. More than fifty people signed up to testify.

By the 11 p.m. adjournment time the outpouring had just begun, so the weary commissioners continued the hearing to January 8 and transferred it to the much larger civic auditorium. That gave PNFF the time and space it needed.

In the following weeks the organizers distributed 20,000 copies of a twelve-page "Live Without Trident" tabloid. Dozens of supporters volunteered to walk the precincts and to hang literature on 25,000 doorknobs.

The planning commissioners had an audience of 1,500 when they met at the civic auditorium to take up the Lockheed permit again. All but three of the thirty-five speakers urged denial of the application. One of them, Darrell Yeane, a minister at the University of California Santa Cruz campus, likened the nuclear arms race to the Jonestown massacre:

"Many have wondered how a mass of people could be so mesmerized by the charismatic leader that they could commit suicide at his bidding. And yet we have been mesmerized by the charismatic myths spread by those who have a stake in nuclear war. Santa Cruz may be the place where the movement toward world nuclear suicide may come to an end. Let us refuse to drink the poison of power."

With forty to fifty speakers still to be heard from at a late hour, the commission recessed the hearing for two weeks — long enough for the Lockheed forces to rally. About 300 company supporters, including employees and their spouses, joined 1,200 other spectators at the late January hearing, passing out leaflets for "People for a Free Future."

Abandoning the argument that this was just a narrow "land-use" question, the Lockheed forces offered a stirring defense of the Trident missile and its role as a deterrent against "foreign aggression." They also said the "confined detonator fuse" would be built elsewhere if not in Santa Cruz County.

"Remember Hiroshima," said the People for a Nuclear Free Future. "Remember the Arizona," said the People for a Free Future. The planning commission voted 4-to-1 to grant the permit.

Unwilling to let the debate stop

there, PNFF appealed the decision to the county board of supervisors, buttressing its arguments with support letters from two dozen members of the clergy, two dozen lawyers, and the full membership of the county psychological association.

The supervisors were tense and divided when they met before a packed house on February 27 to dispose of the Lockheed application, but the outcome was never in doubt.

"I do feel the arms race is a train to hell and we are being presented in our mountains an opportunity to participate in that ride," said Supervisor Gary Patton, speaking for a troubled minority on the board.

"I have been called a war criminal, accused of killing people, and of allowing children to be mutilated," said Supervisor Pat Liberty, who seemed equally troubled. "I have been yelled at and hooted at. But I will not be intimidated by an unruly mob."

The board voted 3-2 to sustain Lockheed.

**A**lthough the immediate battle was lost, the cause is far from dead in Santa Cruz County. There has been talk of appealing the board decision, of nonviolent resistance at the Lockheed site (seven demonstrators were arrested there in March), and of a ballot initiative to place the issue of nuclear weapons production before the electorate.

The Santa Cruz experience shows that the arms race and disarmament can be significant local issues that unite many diverse factions and attract mass support, and that citizens respond when given an opportunity to speak out against the arms race.

From the beginning, PNFF has viewed its work as part of a larger national disarmament strategy. Local efforts such as those at Santa Cruz are based on the conviction that genuine moves toward disarmament can come about only through the demonstration of grass-roots support for an end to the arms race.

The local skirmish at Santa Cruz made it plain to the people of the community that the arms race begins at home. And it offered the larger lesson that the arms race must also end at home.

