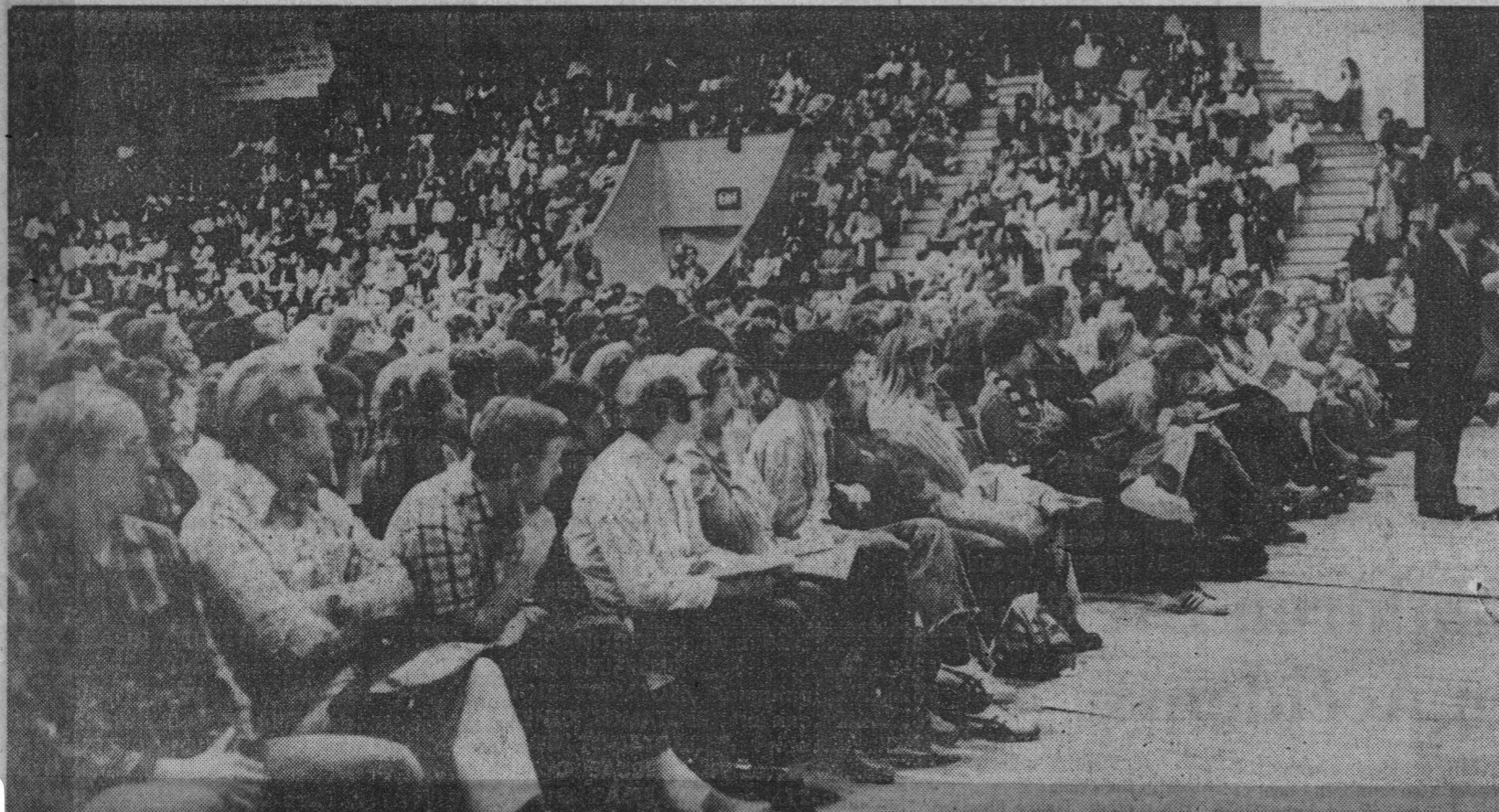


# Lockheed Permit Passes



A large crowd was present as county supervisors approved use permit for Lockheed.

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Sentinel Staff Writer

Despite protests from nuclear opponents to church leaders, the county Board of Supervisors Tuesday voted 3-2 to reject an appeal of a use permit granted to Lockheed Missile & Space Co.'s plant on Empire Grade Road.

The decision came after a four-hour hearing in front of about 1,000 people at the Civic Auditorium.

Chairman Dan Forbus joined Supervisors Pat Liberty and Marilyn Liddicoat in turning down the appeal of the use permit approved by the county Planning Commission in January.

The appeal was brought to the board by Supervisor Gary Patton.

The permit allows Lockheed to construct five buildings on its existing 4,400-acre site in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

While the board majority saw it as a land use issue, opponents protested Lockheed's present manufacturing of parts for the Trident I nuclear missile and proposed manufacturing of Trident II parts, claiming Trident is a first-strike weapon.

Testimony became very emotional at times, causing Liberty, in moving to reject the appeal, to state in a quivering voice:

"I have been accused of being a war criminal, of deliberately mutilating children, of doing everything a nuclear war can do . . . I will not be intimidated by an unruly mob threatening me with anything. This is a land use matter, not a nuclear bomb issue."

Some spokesmen, such as Scott Kennedy of local People for a Nuclear Free Future, warned supervisors that they could be deemed responsible

for a nuclear holocaust. But overall, Forbus complimented the crowd for its overall respectful attitude.

In a concluding statement, Kennedy said, " . . . In a full page ad, it was claimed that, were this wartime, our position would be traitorous. We point out, on the other hand, that were Trident ever used in war, those in this room who helped to approve, plan, direct or work on its production and use would be liable for prosecution as war criminals."

Patton and Supervisor Chris Matthews, in refusing to go along with the board majority, did see the matter as a "nuclear bomb issue."

"It's clear in our ordinance that we cannot approve a new use if it's detrimental to the health, safety, peace and morals . . . Is there any reason we should disobey our own ordinance? I have seen none," Patton stated.

Patton attempted to amend Liberty's motion by adding the statement that Lockheed shouldn't be allowed to build three buildings that would warrant an expansion. His amendment failed.

Of the five buildings Lockheed plans, two would replace existing buildings. It was argued by opponents that Lockheed would use these new buildings to build Trident II parts if they get the federal contract. Congress has yet to approve Trident II.

The Rev. Thomas Carr of First United Presbyterian Church who said he was representing 15 other clergymen, also used the "health, safety, peace and morals" argument in opposing the use permit.

"If this grizzly business cannot be stopped here, then where and when?" Carr asked. "What I want to see in my lifetime is the taming of the nuclear beast before it squashes us all."

Others claimed that the use permit goes against the county's Park, Recreation and Open Space plan which shows the Lockheed site as open space reserve.

REFERENCE

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But many in the audience argued on Lockheed's behalf, noting that this country needs weapons for defense and pointing out Lockheed's contributions to the community.

"Participating in the defense of the United States... contributes to the public welfare and the common good," said Harold Rogers of People for Energy Progress.

Lockheed employee John McGlothlan said, "The danger of war today doesn't come from the United States. It comes from the Soviet countries' desire to spread communism. We must maintain both our peace and our weapons, and the Trident is the weapon to do this."

Despite the board's vote, members of PNFF said they will continue to look into ways to pursue the matter, including the possibility of a ballot measure on whether nuclear weapons' parts should be allowed to be made in this county.

Of this proposal for a ballot measure, Lockheed's Vern Smith said, "It's drifting away from the regular government process if you put every major issue on as an initiative."