

New round of Williams protest trials starts

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Despite a 0-3 record last week, the Oakland County prosecutor's office is taking three more anti-nuclear demonstrators to trial today on conspiracy charges.

The cases grew out of more than 50 arrests last fall of demonstrators trying to blockade a defense subcontractor, Williams International Co. of Commerce Township.

'To establish conspiracy, we need to show there was an agreement between two or more persons to commit an act.'

Richard Thompson
chief assistant prosecutor

BUT DEFENSE attorney William H. Goodman of Detroit said, "I hope the prosecutor would see this is not the kind of charge that will be successful. . . . I don't like conspiracy law and conspiracy cases," said the civil liberties specialist. "It goes to freedom of speech. Discussion of civil disobedience should be unfettered."

Goodman called it "strange" that "the crime of conspiracy is treated worse than the misdemeanors." Penalty for trespass is up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine; for conspiracy to trespass, up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

In Walled Lake District Court, Judge

Michael Batchik Wednesday dismissed the conspiracy charge against Jean Hutchinson, 80, internationally known English demonstrator against U.S. cruise missiles. A day later, the jury acquitted students Crystal McCartney of Detroit and Michael Heflin of Constantine.

Prosecution witnesses were mostly sheriff's deputies testifying about the demonstrators' strategy sessions in the gym of a Catholic school in Pontiac and daily 6:45 a.m. demonstrations in front of Williams' plant last Nov. 27 to Dec. 2.

GOODMAN CALLED the demonstrations "civil disobedience" rather than conspiracy.

"There was a decision of conscience. They were not acting concertedly.

prosecutor Thompson, "we need to show there was an agreement between two or more persons to commit an act. The agreement does not have to be verbalized. There just has to be concert of action."

"In reviewing (last week's) case with the trial lawyer, it is my impression the jury acquitted not on the law. There were photos. There were videotapes. There were training exercises."

This week's trial will be before a different Walled Lake judge, Martin Boyle. Last month the prosecutor's office was unsuccessful in seeking to have Boyle disqualified because of his membership in Lawyers Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control.

There was no agreement of anyone with anyone to act. Their actions together were criminal."

"It's like you're going for a walk and someone else decides to go along. Each would be taking the walk without the other. It's not like a game of cards where you need someone else to play. "Conspiracy" is an agreement to violate the law. We claimed there was no agreement."

ing an injunction issued by Circuit Judge James Thornburn prohibiting of

Five prisoners currently serving contempt of court terms have begun a water fast because of the terms of Thornburn's ruling. The judge said they could "purge" themselves and gain their freedom by providing to stay away from the Williams plant.

The first — including two Catholic nuns and a Methodist minister — said "such a promise would bind our conscience and forewarn the call of our God at whom we pray to act." Their jail terms are indefinite.

'It goes to freedom of speech. Discussion of civil disobedience should be unfettered.'

William H. Goodman,
defense attorney

Anti-nuke forces 'kid selves'—Dunn

Jim Dunn, Republican U.S. Senate hopeful, says he could bring defense contracts to Michigan if voters pick him to replace Democrat Carl Levin on Nov. 6.

And the 46-year-old East Lansing homebuilder is critical of anti-nuclear protesters trying to persuade Williams International Inc. to quit building U.S. cruise-missile parts in its Commerce Township plant.

"We kid ourselves that if these don't happen (get built) here, they won't happen," he said in an interview. "We have to get that message out. It will happen somewhere else. Missiles can be built someplace else."

THE FORMER 6th District congressman was asked to comment on how Michigan, which ranks almost last in the amount of federal spending per capita, frequently finds its own people fighting federal projects.

Among the federal programs are several defense projects, the SEMTA underground light rail line ("subway"), freeways and aid to cities.

Dunn insisted Levin, completing his first term, is "ineffective" despite his position on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Dunn said Jack Loumsa, his rival in the Aug. 7 Republican primary, is so attached to Texas, where his children go to school, that he has no grasp of Michigan issues.

DUNN ADVOCATED:

- Personally "breaking down the barriers of hesitancy" among businesses about bidding on federal contracts. "I had a 61-percent increase (in federal contracts) in the 6th District," said Dunn, who held the office in 1961-2.
- Urban enterprise zones in large cities such as Detroit. Federal, state and local tax exemptions and regulatory relief could be granted to such zones of high unemployment, increasing jobs and long-range tax revenues. A bill he co-sponsored with Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., called for nine such zones across the nation.
- No subway funds for Detroit. "When you look at the layout of Detroit compared to Chicago or

Washington, D.C., where you move a lot of people into a relatively small area."

- Federal aid to rebuild the infrastructure (sewers, water, roads) of cities. In contrast, he said, a staff report in the Carter Administration said large cities were doomed.
- DUNN SCOFFED at Loumsa's first "position paper" in which the retired astronaut talked of doubling the state's agricultural exports by the end of the decade.
- "That's easy to talk about — lower the trade barriers," Dunn said. "But I don't see it in the near future."
- "If the U.S. tomorrow lowered every one of its barriers, would the rest of the world follow suit? No."
- He cited Japanese barriers to American beef. "The biggest lobby in Japan is the farmers, restricting our beef. The irony is that we created it (the Japanese farm lobby). When (Gen. Douglas) MacArthur ran it after World War II, he broke up the feudal system."

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HOW TO WEAR A SEAT BELT

YOU CAN BE BOTH SECURE AND COMFORTABLE IN YOUR CAR.

It's been proved over and over that seat belts at least double your chances of escaping death or serious injury in a severe accident. But the freedom of movement allowed by the never front seat belts has bothered some people. How can the seat belt hold you securely if it appears to have almost no tension?

The fact is, the shoulder belt is designed to restrict your movement only in an emergency. In normal situations, you can lean forward or to the side with little pressure from the shoulder belt.

In an emergency, the belts lock up to hold you in place. The inertial reel makes this possible. That's a mechanism as simple and reliable as gravity (as you can see in the accompanying diagram). Inertial reels have been used since the 1974 model year for the shoulder belt in many GM cars. They allow you complete freedom of movement in normal driving. You can turn easily to check traffic or reach to the glove compartment.

Adjusting your shoulder and lap belt: Even the slightest tension you feel from the inertial reel is adjustable so there is almost no pressure. Pull the shoulder belt far enough away from you so that, when you let it go, it comes back flat against your chest. Then pull down slightly on the shoulder portion, about one inch, and let it go again.

Safety experts suggest allowing no more slack on the shoulder belt than absolutely necessary for comfort. Lap belts should be adjusted snugly as low on your hipbones as possible — not higher, where they might damage internal organs in a crash.

How the inertial reel works. Your shoulder belt is designed to allow freedom under normal conditions, but to lock automatically and restrain you in a collision.

Seat Belt Locking Bar Pendulum Ratchet Mechanism

Under normal conditions, the pendulum and locking bar are in their rest positions. The reel, which holds the seat belt is free to rotate. As you lean against it, the belt unreeles.

In a collision, lap/shoulder belts, worn properly, distribute the force across the large, strong bones of your hips and torso. Perhaps most important, belts help keep you from being thrown out of the vehicle in an accident.

What if you are pregnant? The American Association for Automotive Medicine says the dangers of being unbelted in a collision during pregnancy are far greater than the slight chance of injury caused by wearing the belts.

Other advantages of belts. By holding you in a proper driving position, the lap belt provides a feeling of control, keeping you in place on rough or curved roads or in an emergency maneuver. Some people even find that the added support makes driving easier on their backs.

Next time you drive, please take a moment to buckle up. Remember, the seat belt is an effective system to help protect you, and it's already part of your car. Why not think of it as your "Life Belt" and use it.

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