

# Anti-war groups reach Broomfield's ear

By Susan Steinmueller  
staff writer

About 60 demonstrators carrying signs with messages such as "Kill Contra Aid" and "No Nicaraguans," marched in front of U.S. Rep. William Broomfield's Birmingham office Aug. 4 to protest U.S. involvement in Nicaragua.

The site often has been the scene of demonstrations by groups opposed to the 18th District representative's support of President Reagan's military aid policies in Central America. Broomfield is the ranking Republican on the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Sponsoring the picketing were the local Committee Against Military Aid to El Salvador (CAMAES) and the Detroit area Pledge of Resistance (POR). Pickets later said they believed the demonstration was successful not only because it increased awareness, but because it resulted in a long-sought after promise from Broomfield that he would meet with them later in the month to discuss the issue.

THREE SPOKESMEN of the groups, who said they were surprised to find Broomfield in his office, talked with him for about a half an hour immediately prior to the 4 p.m. demonstration. However, Broomfield, who later mingled with the crowd, showed no signs of backing down on his position of supporting U.S. military aid to the contras, who seek to overthrow the Nicaraguan Sandinista government.

"Obviously we had different points of view. But, it was very friendly, and I respect their point of view," said Broomfield, whose district includes the Farmington area, when contacted Tuesday about his meeting with the three demonstrators. They were: Rudy Simons, Bloomfield Hills businessman and POR member; Maggie Tyson of Bloomfield Hills and co-founder of the three-year-old CAMAES; and Carolyn Peyer of Birmingham, a CAMAES member.

"I've agreed to another meeting later on, but that's about it," he said. Broomfield said of his stance, "I'm trying to do what in my judgment is the best for our country." Noting that the heavy amount of sophisticated weaponry being given to the Sandinistas by the Soviets is currently being discussed at the capitol, he said, "It's a serious matter as far as we're concerned."

DURING THE 1½-hour demonstration, the group sang peace songs, listened to testimonials of those who had recently been in Nicaragua, and marched in circles carrying not only

banners, but crosses on which were written names and dates of death of civilians who have died at the hands of contras in the Nicaraguan conflict.

Many wore black armbands "to symbolize the death in Central America as a result of our policies, and the death of our ideals," according to Simons.

Those who spoke at the gathering included Lucy Karas, a former Birmingham resident and the niece of a Jesuit missionary priest, the Rev. Guadalupe Carney, who was killed by the Honduran military.

Karas had just returned from Nicaragua where she and her family were invited to the dedication of a Nicaraguan cooperative honoring Carney.

"Vietnam did not end because of the government, it ended because people got tired of it and took action," said Karas. Referring to the current U.S. policy of supporting contras in Nicaragua, she said, "It's time we search ourselves and take action. It's beyond words now."

"I'd like the U.S. to stop forcing ourselves on Central and South America and let these people determine for themselves what is right for them, and to stop using our tax money to murder, rape, and kill — and that's what I said down there."

HERB GUNN and his wife, Julie Beutel of Detroit, who volunteered for Witness for Peace in Nicaragua, were among the picketers. One of the group's functions in Nicaragua was to take people into the war zone to witness it first hand.

Beutel was one of 53 kidnapped by the contras for 28 hours one year ago when they floated down the river between Costa Rica and Nicaragua to demonstrate that in order for peace to be achieved, the contras would have to be removed.

"When you live there, you just really quickly realize that the contras are the terrorists," said Beutel. "They are terrified of them, and terrorized by them."

"I think communism is a word that is used too much in this country," she added.

"As long as we attribute all the revolutions in the poor countries to Moscow, we will never understand that it's really poor people struggling to control their own country and their own destiny," said Gunn.

"I JUST THINK it's terrible that we can't let the Nicaraguans live in peace," said Tyson. "All we are asking is to stop the (military) aid, and let them live in peace."



C.D. STOFFER/staff photographer

Bob O'Brien (left) and Julie Beutel, who was kidnapped by the contras about a year ago during a trip to Nicaragua, sing anti-

war songs outside the local office of U.S. Rep. William Broomfield.

## Car problems often can be prevented

With constant care — maintenance right on schedule and a trip to the shop as soon as symptoms are spotted — nearly all serious car problems can be prevented.

Unfortunately, busy drivers seldom stick to rigid service schedules and most things aren't fixed until they're truly broken, especially in the case of older cars, for which maintenance seems futile and repair costs are often considered good money after bad.

Sooner or later, though, automotive Russian Roulette is bound to result in a breakdown when it's least expected — and big repair bills. The alternative is "pre-emptive repairs."

According to Automotive Service Councils of Michigan president Gary Carner of Farmington Hills, "Instead of the usual Band-Aid ap-

proach — hoping a tune-up and oil change will prevent problems, or worse still, thinking there's no hope and driving until a car dies — pre-emptive repairs pinpoint the highest risk areas most likely to cause trouble, and focus on fixing only those critical points that could kill a car."

"WORKING FROM the pre-emptive point of view," Carner said, "mechanics attack areas that might break down before they do, seeking out and servicing conditions that might cost more to correct later."

For example, he said, "A pre-emptive repair zeros in on the timing belt that might break and seriously hurt an engine, spots an oil leak before it turns into transmission trouble or catches a ball joint

before it can break and cause a life-threatening situation."

"Pre-emptive repairs make sense for the car's body, too," added Larry Auger, special adviser to the Automotive Service Councils.

Tough Michigan winters really take a toll: corrosion caused by road salt, misalignment from potholed pavement, and scrapes, dings and dents. Combined with fallout from industrial pollution and summer sun's effect on paint, they can drastically drop a car's value. Fortunately, picking the right repairs can stop that slide, and actually add far more than they cost to the car's resale.

BOTH CARNER and Auger agree that constantly maintaining a car in top shape is the best alternative. But for those unable or

unwilling to invest that much time, effort or money, knowing and choosing just the right repairs at the right time can pre-empt problems and stop car troubles in its tracks, keeping the car, and its owner's wallet, in sound shape.

Carner and Auger will tour the state throughout the summer, helping consumers understand "pre-emptive repairs," to help keep repair costs and car problems under control. They'll talk about getting a car ready for summer vacation, how to handle repairs on the road, finding the right shop, and inside automotive tips, along with answers to any and all car questions.

Automotive Service Councils of Michigan is a non-profit trade association that works with 400 independently owned automotive repair facilities across the state.

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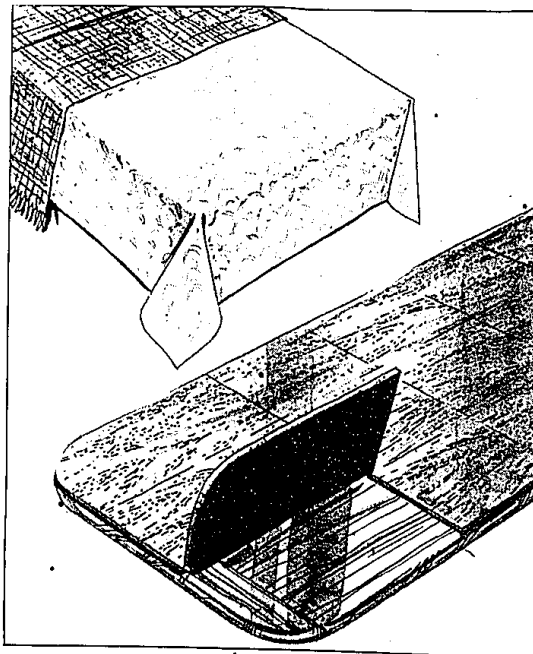
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