

No promise, no freedom?

AP — Arguments on whether a judge can indefinitely jail anti-nuclear protesters for refusing to promise not to engage in civil disobedience were heard this week by the state Supreme Court.

Wednesday's hearing involved Williams International Corp. in Oakland County's Commerce Township, which manufactures engines for nuclear-tipped cruise missiles. The plant has been the site of numerous demonstrations over the past four years.

More than 100 people have been arrested near the plant, usually on trespassing charges for attempting to walk through the gates of the plant.

"This issue has never really been decided in any court in this country, so it is a novel problem," said Ernest Goodman, one of two lawyers for the protesters.

"IT is one that is going to be im-

portant, not only in the state, but nationally as well," Goodman said.

In 1983, Oakland County Circuit Judge James Thorburn issued a permanent injunction, prohibiting trespassing and blocking traffic at the plant.

However, when the injunction was violated several times, Thorburn ordered the offenders to jail after they refused his order to promise that they never again violate the injunction. Only one person did so, stating she was moving out of state permanently.

Some of the offenders remained in jail until they were released at the request of Williams International. Seventeen of the protesters have appealed their sentences.

The state Court of Appeals upheld Thorburn's ruling.

Dawn Phillips, the attorney representing Williams International, declined to comment on the case, say-

ing the corporation's position was a "very technical legal argument."

GOODMAN SAID the protesters were willing to accept jail terms when convicted of trespassing charges but weren't willing to promise not to do it again. He said Thorburn's ruling was unconstitutional because it violated the First Amendment's guarantees of freedom of speech.

"This involves trying to force someone to make a public statement on a matter which, as a matter of conscience, they felt they shouldn't be forced to do," Goodman said. "The First Amendment protects a person's right not to speak as well as to speak."

Two friends of the Court briefs have been submitted to the Supreme Court in support of the protesters. One is from the Detroit Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, National Conference of Black Lawyers and

the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, while the second is from Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit. H. Coleman McGhee of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and Judith Craig of the Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church.

It is time to register for OCC

Registration is in progress for over 200 winter non-credit short courses offered at the Auburn Hills, Highland Lakes, Orchard Ridge and Southeast campuses of Oakland Community College.

Offerings include:

- "Tasting Great Wines from Great Grapes" will be offered at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills on five consecutive Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 21. Students will taste a minimum of six foreign and domestic wines.

- "Child Care As A Career: Options and Alternatives" is offered at the Highland Lakes Campus in Union Lake on two evenings, beginning Monday, Feb. 2. The course will examine the child care field and its future.

- "Transitions," a self-awareness workshop for displaced homemakers, divorced, separated or single women, and people seeking employment in non-traditional areas, is scheduled at all four campuses.

- Youth courses, including clowning and mime and computer programming for elementary to senior high students, are offered on all four campuses.

OTHER NON-CREDIT COURSES include such specialties as keylining, a form of art training, and the most popular course offering, stocks and bonds.

For the first time an honors program will be offered at the Farmington Hills campus. Designed for students who have demonstrated academic excellence, the program will provide opportunity for creative thought and discussion.

Over 28,000 students are enrolled at OCC, ranging in age from 18 years to 81 years, according to Dr. Donald Nichols, academic dean of arts and sciences.

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