

MOBILIZATION AGAINST AIDS
2120 Market Street, Suite 106
San Francisco CA 94114
(415) 431-4660

DATE: 3/23/87

TO: Hour Against AIDS Brigade/Monthly Pledge Members

FROM: Paul Boneberg, Executive Director

RE: Mobilization Actions in January, February, and March 1987.

This is the first Monthly Update dealing with events and Mobilization actions in 1987. About one half of our monthly pledge members received an in-depth private briefing on recent developments earlier this month. This memo will summarize the same material for those members unable to attend that briefing because they do not reside in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mobilization has been taking action on four specific Action Programs in the last 90 days. These are: the Battle around the Federal Budget; Civil Rights Attacks; our Condom Commercial Campaign; and, the International Candlelight Memorials. I will address these roughly in the order in which we began this year's actions, although they are by now simultaneous ongoing programs.

1) THE BATTLE OF THE BUDGET

As longtime members know, each year beginning when Congress convenes in January, Mobilization begins lobbying for increased federal spending on AIDS. We focus on the House of Representatives Budget Committee which has many friendly members and establishes the "high water mark" for AIDS funding each year. Briefly put, the legislative path in both the House and Senate for all funding proposals begins in the Sub-Committee on Health, goes to the Budget Committee and then on to the Appropriations Sub-Committees. Funding is sometimes added by the full House or Senate, but this is unusual. And all funding legislation must be signed by the President or his veto over-ridden.

In this long process, Mobilization seeks to play a specific role -- that of defining what a "moon-shot effort" would cost in a given year and pushing that legislative agenda in the appropriate committees.

You will find enclosed Mobilization's 10-Point Legislative Agenda for fiscal year 1988. We call for immediate implementation of the National Academy of Sciences' Report on AIDS for a total expenditure of 2 billion dollars. Here is a sequential account of what has occurred on the Budget Battle thus far most of which is detailed on the "Summary of Federal Spending" which is also enclosed.

Last year, Mobilization was demanding 500 million dollars on AIDS, and eventually \$416 million was appropriated. In January of this year, the President proposed \$533 million for 1988, and was immediately challenged by Washington-based lobbyists (i.e. NGLTF) who demanded \$700 million. Mobilization challenged both the President and the lobbyists, asserting the need for \$2 billion in AIDS Funding next year.

In February, the House Budget Committee held field hearings in four cities and though we attempted organizing around each one, AIDS was only raised in the hearings in Los Angeles. At that hearing, an unprecedented AIDS Task Force of the Budget Committee was created consisting of Congressional Representatives Boxer, Lowrey, and Fazio. Meanwhile, the House Sub-Committee on Health under Congressman Waxman urged new AIDS funding totaling 1.3 billion dollars. This figure has been embraced by both the Budget Committee AIDS Task Force and the Washington-based AIDS lobbyists. Mobilization is continuing to push for the full \$2 billion and focusing still on the House Budget Committee which must issue its recommendations by April 15. We will keep you posted as this long battle progresses.

2) CIVIL RIGHTS ATTACKS

Delta Airlines - As most members are aware, Delta has engaged in a series of incidents of discrimination against People with AIDS. In January, Mobilization issued a series of four demands and prepared to organize a national boycott of Delta. 90 minutes before our deadline, Delta capitulated. The full story is told in the enclosed Advocate article.

CDC Mandatory Testing Proposals - In February, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) called for a national conference on HIV testing to discuss among other things mandatory testing. Mobilization was represented by Development Director Ralph Payne and myself at the Atlanta meeting. We went with two goals: block the mandatory testing proposal; and change the discussion to federal non-discrimination legislation for HIV-exposed people. In Atlanta, we teamed up with twenty or so other AIDS organizations from around the nation and together we derailed the mandatory testing proposals. Further, Mobilization circulated a consensus statement calling for national legislation banning discrimination against HIV-exposed people. We raised this issue at every opportunity. By the end of the conference, Dr. James Curran (head of the AIDS programs at CDC) and many public health officers from around the country had signed our petition. Dr. James Mason (head of CDC) had refused to sign but issued a statement of general support. Finally, the conference itself called for such legislation. We are now working to get a bill drafted and introduced into Congress in the next few weeks.

Quarantine - Since late February and into March, California County Public Health Officers have been circulating a proposal for "guidelines" to implement "isolation" for "recalcitrant" HIV-infected people. Behind the buzz-words lies the specter of indefinite periods of quarantine for perhaps hundreds of thousands of Californians. Confronted by a number of activists led by Mobilization's National Steering Committee Chair, Dr. Bill Paul, the irrational proposals have been stalled. We are now working to defeat this proposal entirely. We'll keep you posted as this work continues.

3) CONDOM CAMPAIGN

As important as any government-funded AIDS education campaign, is AIDS awareness promoted by the private sector (i.e. business). Unfortunately, television advertisements by condom manufacturers have been blocked by many T.V. stations and all three major networks as "offensive to their audience." Mobilization is working to undercut this bogus argument by T.V. stations. We are asking city councils around the country to pass official policy resolutions asking the T.V. stations serving each city to accept condom ads for the good of the public. Already, we have gotten model legislation passed in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and we are seeking proposals in other cities specifically Seattle, Atlanta, Boston and New York. We think that as city after city goes on record asking for condom ads, the networks' position will become untenable.

4) CANDLELIGHT MEMORIALS

Finally, increasing amounts of staff time and funds are being spent organizing Mobilization's International Candlelight Memorial in support of People with AIDS. This is our third year organizing the memorials which last year occurred in over 80 cities around the world. This year, we are trying to organize events on every continent in the world and every state in the United States. So far, we have 4 continents and 40 states but time is getting very short. The most recent large city to join the Memorial is Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We will, of course, update you as this event -- the largest AIDS event ever -- moves towards completion. Memorial Day this year is May 25th.

These are the major programs in which we have been involved over the last 90 days. I will update you all again in April. Remember -- your support makes it possible.

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To the Hour Brigade
From: Paul Boneberg, Coordinator
RE: Two Weeks of Action

The reason this Hour Brigade Update is a few days later than usual is because the first two weeks of February have been filled with action. The highlights have been:

Feb. 1st - Mobilization National Steering Committee Meeting. The first Steering Committee meeting since the formation of the Phoenix and Seattle Chapters was an enormous success. Major strategic decisions included: expanding our political pressure campaign to the American Medical Association, to obtain greater response from them to AIDS; to organize our Memorial Day Candlelight actions in cities around the world again this year; to distribute personal pledge cards using which individuals pledge to engage in nonviolent civil disobedience if the government should begin interning (quarantining) people with AIDS. Much business besides strategy was also conducted. The next National Steering Committee meeting will be in Phoenix, Arizona in April.

Feb. 4th - AIDS/ARC Discrimination Hearings before the S.F. Human Rights Commission. Mobilization was asked to present overview testimony, which we did. We also urged specific recommendations on actions the Commission could take to address these problems.

Feb. 4-8. Frank Richter, Mobilization Office Manager, led the ARC/AIDS Vigil delegation to Washington, DC. As you all know, Mobilization began the ongoing AIDS/ARC Vigil and many of our members are very active in the Vigil. Therefore when they needed experienced political activists to confront people in Washington, they chose Frank.

Feb. 10-14. - U.S. Congressional Budget Committee Hearings. Mobilization is committed to fighting to obtain \$500 million to fight AIDS from the federal government. Therefore when President Reagan submitted his proposed budget, we immediately contacted the Budget Committee to ascertain their hearing schedule. We discovered that they planned to hold hearings in five different cities including S.F. during the week of Feb. 10-14. Moving immediately into action, we contacted AIDS activists in four cities: Chicago, Lowell, Mass., Tallahassee, Florida, and Dallas. In Lowell, AIDS activists had already planned a response but in the other cities they were unaware of the Hearing. As a result of our efforts, AIDS funding will be raised at every Budget Committee Hearing held during this week.

Wed. Feb. 12. - Holocaust Memorial Press Conference. Responding to recent press reports of increasing calls for the internment of people with AIDS, Mobilization held a press conference to respond. We had representatives of the major religious bodies in the city denounce the increased calls for quarantine. One man who was in a Nazi concentration camp, Jerry Rosenstein, spoke out at the conference. Finally, Mobilization announced our "civil disobedience in case of quarantine" pledge cards that were decided at the National Steering Committee.

Friday, Feb. 14. - Congressional Budget Hearing in S.F. Mobilization pushed to get AIDS on the agenda of this hearing and we succeeded. We also organized a picket and rally to intensify our demands for increased federal funding. We intend to keep pressuring the committee -- which has the power to authorize the funding we need -- to take action. We also intend to keep pressuring Bay Area Congressional Representatives Boxer, Miller and Fazio, all of whom are on the Budget Committee, to do more.

Sat. Feb. 15. - Mobilization is up for a Cable Car Award in S.F. for last year's candlelight marches. Keep your fingers crossed.

Also during these two weeks we closely monitored state legislation to make sure that proposed civil rights attacks did not come before committees without our being present to testify against them.

So it's been a busy and successful two weeks. It's going to be a long year. Remember, your support makes it possible.

January 7, 1986

To: Members of the Hour Brigade
From: Paul Boneberg, Coordinator

RE: Recent Public Opinion Polls, and the Coming Civil Rights Attacks

A series of stunning public opinion polls on AIDS have been completed in the last month. Despite confusing data results, the surveys generally portray the American people as favoring massive infringement of civil rights to fight AIDS. I want to call to your attention a few highlights of these different surveys:

- In a nationwide Gallup poll commissioned by the far right, 72% of the people favored mandatory HTLV-III antibody testing for many Americans. A majority favored mandatory testing (and presumably removal of those who test positive) in the health professions and the many food handlers. The questions of this poll were probably distorted to achieve these results but nonetheless the response is disturbing.

- In a probably more objective nationwide poll by the L.A. Times, only 45% supported HTLV-III antibody testing of job applicants and 51% of those polled even favor legislation which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. But in the same public opinion sample, 42% favored closing gay bars. Worse still, 51% support quarantining people with AIDS, 48% favor identity cards for those who test antibody positive, and 15% favor tattooing people with AIDS. These figures are truly frightening.

- The highly respected California poll was disturbing in a different way in its survey of Californians. The vast majority of those surveyed were highly educated about AIDS, with 90% recognizing that it is a sexually transmitted disease and less than 1/3 believing that AIDS can be transmitted via saliva. Despite this information, 67% of those polled believe that food handlers should be "tested for AIDS," 29% believe children with AIDS should be removed from school, and 22% believe employees should have the right to fire people with AIDS. One interesting result in the poll was that 61% said that AIDS was the medical problem which concerned them most, followed by cancer (22%) and heart disease (7%).

- Finally, another nationwide Gallup poll found an interesting but disturbing statistic. When asked if the AIDS epidemic has changed their opinion of gays for the better, for the worse or not made any difference, these were the results: only 2% said better, 37% worse, 59% no change. This means, in my estimation, that virtually none of the American people are aware of the millions of dollars and thousands of volunteers our community has raised to fight AIDS. Gay people are not the cause of AIDS, we are part of the solution, but apparently almost no one is proud of our ~~community~~ efforts to fight this epidemic. We can only assume that they are not aware of our efforts. This is disheartening, and we must begin a campaign to let the American people know what Lesbian and Gay people are doing to fight this epidemic.

All of these polls point to one thing: Coming civil rights attacks in the name of AIDS. Probably this will come in the form of proposals for mass HTLV-III testing, registration, and firing; quarantining people with AIDS, and closure of gay baths and bars. In fact, as this is being written the Texas Health Commission will decide whether to empower its Dept of Health to quarantine "irresponsible" people with AIDS. The preliminary vote was 13 to 5 for quarantine and the final vote will come this month.

Mobilization is gearing up to oppose these civil rights attacks city by city and state by state.

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March 25, 1986

To: The Hour Brigade
From: Paul Boneberg, Coordinator
Re: Actions in March

Mobilization Against AIDS won the S.F. Cable Car Award for Outstanding Community Event, for our Memorial Day Candlelight Memorial! Congratulations to all of you whose support made last year's event happen.

As reported in the February Hour Brigade Update, we have been vigorously lobbying the House Budget Committee for a massive increase in AIDS funding. You will be pleased to know that Congresswoman Boxer is now committed to pushing for 390 million dollars in AIDS funding next year (an increase of 140 million over current spending levels). Mobilization has been contacting community groups in the Congressional Districts of every member of the Budget Committee. We have succeeded in getting pressure for a funding increase in the following cities: Tallahassee, Florida; Lowell, Massachusetts; New York City; Chicago; Fort Worth, Texas; Seattle; Sacramento and Contra Costa County, California. In virtually all of these areas, the Congressional Representatives have never been lobbied by their constituents on AIDS, therefore our organizing is extremely valuable.

On the state level there are over 40 AIDS bills currently pending in the California legislature. These bills parallel civil rights attacks which are occurring in many states and focus on mandatory HTLV-III antibody testing and quarantine bills. Bills now pending would require HTLV-III antibody testing for prisoners, prostitutes, health professionals, all people receiving medical treatment, and anyone applying for a marriage license. Mobilization has been monitoring these bills and attempting to kill the mandatory testing bills in committee. We are, of course, also strongly supporting legislation which would increase AIDS funding and services to people with AIDS.

Recently we were stunned to discover the Public Broadcasting System was about to air nationwide an extremely distorted and journalistically flawed piece on AIDS. We fought to pull this film (the Fabian Bridges excerpt on the Frontline show aired March 25) but PBS refused. Subsequently Mobilization began organizing a nationwide financial boycott of PBS. This is a recent effort and we will keep you posted.

To those of you who live in the S.F. Bay area, a happy note. Our "Spring Madness" party netted \$2,200 -- and enormous good will. The TV crew which filmed part of the event was French National Television.

We are now shifting attention to the organizing of Mobilization's annual candlelight marches on Memorial Day in support of people with AIDS. Already we have confirmed candlelight actions in: London; Sydney and Melbourne, Australia; Vancouver, Canada; and in the U.S. Boston, New York, Jackson, New Orleans, Houston, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, Seattle, Chicago and Albany. We expect many more cities to come on board in the next few weeks.

As you can see we've been swamped with work. That is why this March Hour Brigade Update is so late. But we are organizing furiously around the country and great progress is being made. Remember, your support makes it possible.

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To: The Hour Brigade
From: Paul Boneberg, National Coordinator
Re: Recent Actions

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- The 3rd annual international candlelight memorials in support of people with AIDS on Memorial Day, May 26, are progressing very well. Mobilization has concentrated on expanding the memorials to areas of the nation and the world where they had not occurred in 1985. We currently have commitments from over 80 cities in ten countries including Tokyo, Sydney, London, Paris, Berlin, N.Y.C., Los Angeles, Houston, Miami, and virtually every major American city and smaller cities like Fargo - North Dakota, Peoria - Illinois, Wichita - Kansas, Savannah - Georgia and even Jerry Falwell's hometown in Lynchburg - Virginia. We have succeeded in organizing global actions in support of people with AIDS on one day -- May 26th.

- The battle for increased Federal funding to fight AIDS continues. The Senate Budget Committee has reported out a proposal which would keep AIDS funding at this year's level. The House Budget Committee still has not issued its proposal. Our best information is that two proposals are being debated for AIDS funding for 1987. These are an increase of 50 million dollars and an increase of 150 million. We are continuing to contact people in the key Congressional Districts asking them to pressure their Representatives. We are also beginning to shift our efforts toward the House Appropriations Committee, which is the next set of the process. We will keep you posted as this year-long process continues.

- The National Academy of Science-Institute of Medicine Commission on AIDS held hearings on AIDS in San Francisco 2 weeks ago. I testified before the Commission urging them to issue the following recommendations on national policy. These were: 1) To call for a "moon shot" effort to defeat the disease. 2) To redefine the disease to be inclusive of all those who are sick. 3) To call for maintaining civil rights guarantees of people exposed to AIDS as essential to the medical effort. 4) To broaden the availability of treatment programs. I was challenged on the fourth point and engaged in a significant discussion with the panel on the availability of treatment in this country.

This Commission, which I have mentioned in earlier reports, is highly prestigious and the report they will issue in September will certainly carry a great deal of weight. We will continue to attempt to lobby its members to issue a favorable report.

- Civil Rights attacks are coming fast and furious within the California Legislature. Numerous bills which would require forced HTLV-3 testing have passed their initial committees and are moving toward full voting in each house. Particularly upsetting was the passage out of committee of a bill by Senator Doolittle which requires HTLV-3 testing as a condition of obtaining a marriage license. We are increasing our efforts to kill this bill.

- I and other Mobilization Steering Committee members attended 2 conferences in April. The first was the Desert States Lesbian/Gay Conference in Phoenix. We had an opportunity to meet with the leadership of Mobilization Against AIDS-Phoenix, which is one of our strongest Chapters. The second conference, in Los Angeles, was concerning the politics of AIDS in California. It was a productive meeting and an excellent opportunity to network with AIDS activists from Southern California.

These are the highlights of our efforts over the 21 days since your last update letter. Remember, your support makes it possible.

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1. People directly affected by AIDS, who will participate in the event.
2. The mainstream media, and through them, millions of people around the world.
3. Elected officials, particularly Members of the U.S. Congress.

To reach these groups, Mobilization provided each local organizing committee with posters, flyers, sample press releases, sample letters inviting elected officials, and MAA brochures and posters. Further, we made available to each American city a 30-second Public Service Announcement (TV video) on the Candlelight Memorials, featuring Carol Channing.

When you combine the media and political impacts of the Memorials with the large number of cities participating, then the importance of the Memorials becomes clear. We have begun to accomplish what everyone wants in the face of the epidemic: united international action on AIDS.

The House Budget Committee is about to propose spending 346 million dollars on AIDS in 1987. This figure is less than the 500 million MAA is demanding, but is more than virtually anyone thought possible just a few months ago. This figure was a compromise between the 2 leading proposals among those in leadership -- one for \$290 million and one for \$390. Basically they split the difference. Although it is impossible to ascertain MAA's impact on the Budget Committee, certainly we had substantial influence on the committee's proposal. This is, of course, the first step in the funding process and now we will shift our attention to the House Appropriations Committee.

The AIDS Strategic Planning Commission was the focus of an Hour Brigade Update some months ago. MAA pushed to get PWA's and PWARC's on the Commission, as well as pushing a series of important issues. This resulted in 4 MAA leaders, some PWA's, some not, being put on the Commission which has drafted the AIDS master plan for the State of California. These four represented us and themselves very well as in fact did virtually the entire Planning Commission when it met May 4th and 5th. The result was the first comprehensive plan on AIDS in the nation, drafted by experts including PWA's, and calling for California to spend 50 million dollars on AIDS in 1987.

The S.F. Chapter has been busy fighting 2 issues. Frank Richter and Ben Gardiner have been involved in trying to reverse the recent tripling of the cost of ribavirin in Mexico. (Ribavirin is an anti-viral drug which many PWA's purchase in Mexico). The manufacturer this week, because of pressure from a variety of groups, canceled the increase, though only for PWA's. The other S.F. Chapter Co-Chair, Ken McPherson, organized a picket against Jerry Falwell, who was speaking near San Jose. Hundreds of people picketed, even though the event was a 2-hour drive from San Francisco.

Finally, our work on the forced testing legislation in California is continuing. We recently met with Speaker Willie Brown and with Assemblyman Filante to assure their opposition to forced testing bills. I will keep you posted on this important matter.

So those are the highlights of Mobilization's last 30 days. We're having an impact. Remember, your support makes it possible!

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The 3rd annual international candlelight memorials in support of people with AIDS on Memorial Day, May 26, are progressing very well. Mobilization has concentrated on expanding the memorials to areas of the country and the world where they had not occurred in 1983. We currently have commitments from over 20 countries including Tokyo, Sydney, London, Paris, Berlin, NYC, Los Angeles, Houston, Miami and virtually every major American city and smaller cities like Fargo - North Dakota, Peoria - Illinois, Wichita - Kansas, Savannah - Georgia and even Jerry Falwell's hometown in Lynchburg - Virginia. We have succeeded in organizing global action in support of people with AIDS on one day -- May 26th.

The battle for increased Federal funding to fight AIDS continues. The Senate Budget Committee has reported out a proposal which would keep AIDS funding at this year's level. The House Budget Committee still has not issued its proposal. Our best information is that two proposals are being debated for AIDS funding for 1987. These are an increase of 50 million dollars and an increase of 150 million. We are continuing to contact people in the key Congressional Districts asking them to pressure their Representatives. We are also beginning to shift our efforts toward the House Appropriations Committee, which is the next set of the process. We will keep you posted as this year-long process continues.

The National Academy of Science-Institute of Medicine Commission on AIDS held hearings on AIDS in San Francisco 2 weeks ago. I testified before the Commission urging them to issue the following recommendations on national policy. These were: 1) To call for a "moon shot" effort to defeat the disease. 2) To redefine the disease to be inclusive of all those who are sick. 3) To call for maintaining civil rights guarantees of people exposed to AIDS as essential to the medical effort. 4) To broaden the availability of treatment programs. I was challenged on the fourth point and engaged in a significant discussion with the panel on the availability of treatment in this country.

This Commission, which I have mentioned in earlier reports, is highly prestigious and the report they will issue in September will certainly carry a great deal of weight. We will continue to attempt to lobby its members to issue a favorable report.

Civil Rights attacks are coming fast and furious within the California Legislature. Numerous bills which would require forced HTLV-3 testing have passed their initial committees and are moving toward full voting in each house. Particularly upsetting was the passage out of committee of a bill by Senator Doolittle which requires HTLV-3 testing as a condition of obtaining a marriage license. We are increasing our efforts to kill this bill.

I and other Mobilization Steering Committee members attended 2 conferences in April. The first was the Desert States Lesbian/Gay Conference in Phoenix. We had an opportunity to meet with the leadership of Mobilization Against AIDS-Phoenix, which is one of our strongest Chapters. The second conference, in Los Angeles, was concerning the politics of AIDS in California. It was a productive meeting and an excellent opportunity to network with AIDS activists from Southern California.

These are the highlights of our efforts over the 21 days since your last update letter. Remember, your support makes it possible.

Paul Boneberg
Coordinator

MOBILIZATION Against AIDS

2120 Market Street #104, San Francisco, California 94114

(415) 431-4660

To: The Hour Brigade
From: Paul Boneberg

Actions in April:

The most important activity we have been engaged in in April is the organizing of Mobilization's Candlelight Memorials on May 26th. As you know from your last update, we have succeeded in doubling the number of cities involved in the memorials from last year's total. We are also expanding the impact of the event by providing detailed packets to the participating cities. Basically the international memorial actions are targeted at 3 different audiences:

1. People directly affected by AIDS, who will participate in the event.
2. The mainstream media, and through them, millions of people around the world.
3. Elected officials, particularly Members of the U.S. Congress.

To reach these groups, Mobilization provided each local organizing committee with posters, flyers, sample press releases, sample letters inviting elected officials, and MAA brochures and posters. Further, we made available to each American city a 30-second Public Service Announcement (TV video) on the Candlelight Memorials, featuring Carol Channing.

When you combine the media and political impacts of the Memorials with the large number of cities participating, then the importance of the Memorials becomes clear. We have begun to accomplish what everyone wants in the face of the epidemic: united international action on AIDS.

The House Budget Committee is about to propose spending 346 million dollars on AIDS in 1987. This figure is less than the 500 million MAA is demanding, but is more than virtually anyone thought possible just a few months ago. This figure was a compromise between the 2 leading proposals among those in leadership -- one for \$290 million and one for \$390. Basically they split the difference. Although it is impossible to ascertain MAA's impact on the Budget Committee, certainly we had substantial influence on the committee's proposal. This is, of course, the first step in the funding process and now we will shift our attention to the House Appropriations Committee.

The AIDS Strategic Planning Commission was the focus of an Hour Brigade Update some months ago. MAA pushed to get PWA's and PWARC's on the Commission, as well as pushing a series of important issues. This resulted in 4 MAA leaders, some PWA's, some not, being put on the Commission which has drafted the AIDS master plan for the State of California. These four represented us and themselves very well as in fact did virtually the entire Planning Commission when it met May 4th and 5th. The result was the first comprehensive plan on AIDS in the nation, drafted by experts including PWA's, and calling for California to spend 50 million dollars on AIDS in 1987.

The S.F. Chapter has been busy fighting 2 issues. Frank Richter and Ben Gardiner have been involved in trying to reverse the recent tripling of the cost of ribavirin in Mexico. (Ribavirin is an anti-viral drug which many PWA's purchase in Mexico). The manufacturer this week, because of pressure from a variety of groups, canceled the increase, though only for PWA's. The other S.F. Chapter Co-Chair, Ken McPherson, organized a picket against Jerry Falwell, who was speaking near San Jose. Hundreds of people picketed, even though the event was a 2-hour drive from San Francisco.

Finally, our work on the forced testing legislation in California is continuing. We recently met with Speaker Willie Brown and with Assemblyman Filante to assure their opposition to forced testing bills. I will keep you posted on this important matter.

So those are the highlights of Mobilization's last 30 days. We're having an impact. Remember, your support makes it possible!

M O B I L I Z A T I O N Against AIDS

2120 Market Street #106, San Francisco, California 94114

(415) 431-4650

March 25, 1986

To: The Hour Brigade
From: Paul Boneberg, Coordinator
Re: Actions in March

Mobilization Against AIDS won the S.F. Cable Car Award for Outstanding Community Event for our Memorial Day Candlelight Memorial! Congratulations to all of you whose support made last year's event happen.

As reported in the February Hour Brigade Update, we have been vigorously lobbying the House Budget Committee for a massive increase in AIDS funding. You will be pleased to know that Congresswoman Boxer is now committed to pushing for 390 million dollars in AIDS funding next year (an increase of 140 million over current spending levels). Mobilization has been contacting community groups in the Congressional Districts of every member of the Budget Committee. We have succeeded in getting pressure for a funding increase in the following cities: Tallahassee, Florida; Lowell, Massachusetts; New York City; Chicago; Fort Worth, Texas; Seattle; Sacramento and Contra Costa County, California. In virtually all of these areas, the Congressional Representatives have never been lobbied by their constituents on AIDS, therefore our organizing is extremely valuable.

On the state level there are over 40 AIDS bills currently pending in the California legislature. These bills parallel civil rights attacks which are occurring in many states and focus on mandatory HTLV-III antibody testing and quarantine bills. Bills now pending would require HTLV-III antibody testing for prisoners, prostitutes, health professionals, all people receiving medical treatment, and anyone applying for a marriage license. Mobilization has been monitoring these bills and attempting to kill the mandatory testing bills in committee. We are, of course, also strongly supporting legislation which would increase AIDS funding and services to people with AIDS.

Recently we were stunned to discover the Public Broadcasting System was about to air nationwide an extremely distorted and journalistically flawed piece on AIDS. We fought to pull this film (the Fabian Bridges excerpt on the Frontline show aired March 25) but PBS refused. Subsequently Mobilization began organizing a nationwide financial boycott of PBS. This is a recent effort and we will keep you posted.

To those of you who live in the S.F. Bay area, a happy note. Our "Spring Madness" party netted \$2,200 - and enormous good will. The TV crew which filmed part of the event was French National Television.

We are now shifting attention to the organizing of Mobilization's annual candlelight marches on Memorial Day in support of people with AIDS. Already we have confirmed candlelight actions in: London, Sydney and Melbourne, Australia; Vancouver, Canada; and in the U.S.: Boston, New York, Jackson, New Orleans, Houston, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, Seattle, Chicago and Albany. We expect many more cities to come on board in the next few weeks.

As you can see we've been swamped with work. That is why this March Hour Brigade Update is so late. But we are organizing furiously around the country and great progress is being made. Remember, your support makes it possible.

Dec. 10, 1985

To: Hour Brigade Members
From: Paul Boneberg
Re: Mobilization's role in public hearings in December '85, particularly San Francisco hearings on ARC.

In last month's briefing I explained how the State AIDS Strategic Planning Commission came into existence and its value as a more independent group than the Calif. Dept. of Health. Mobilization Against AIDS offered public testimony to that Commission twice and will continue to make every effort, both public and behind closed doors, to influence its report.

The Commission's public hearings we testified before are typical of the forum which branches of government use to gather information and to draw attention to an issue. In the month of December Mobilization will testify at three public hearings. These are:

1. United States Congress - Subcommittee on Health and Intergovernmental Operations Hearings in Seattle. Organized by the Seattle Chapter of Mobilization, the action served to spotlight the AIDS crisis as it affects Seattle. The Mobilization was represented by Carl Orme, a PWA, who emphasized the need for increased government funding for treatment and patient services.
2. California State Senate. Health Committee hearings will be held in Los Angeles on Dec. 16th. Mobilization will testify on our plan for a coordinated AIDS response by the state. We will emphasize the urgency for issues of adequate treatment and social service for PWA's and PWARC's, continuing and strengthening community-based education, and the problems of AIDS in prisons.
3. San Francisco Board of Supervisors special hearings on ARC were called by Supervisor Molinari in response to the PWARC's who have been chained to the Federal Building for the last six weeks. The problems around ARC can be summarized briefly: There are 10 times as many people with ARC as have AIDS, and for every person with AIDS there are two people with "severe (disabling) ARC." The medical profession is not uniform in its diagnosis of PWARC. People with ARC are not eligible for many social service programs available to PWA's including social security payments. Locally many people with ARC do not qualify for such programs as the Shanti Project. The result is that many people with ARC, some dying without ever being diagnosed as PWA, are denied essential services.

The solution is to either change the definition of AIDS to include severe ARC or to provide alternate service programs for People With ARC. At the hearings we will be asking the S. F. Board of Supervisors to do four things:

1. Resolve to provide adequate care to PWARC in this city.
2. Direct the Dept. of Health to investigate the magnitude of the ARC crisis and to propose actions to end it.
3. Ask the Calif. Dept. of Health, the Federal E.D.C. and the Social Security Administration to either redefine AIDS or define severe ARC.
4. Ask the S.F. Congressional delegation to make ARC a major priority for their offices in 1986.

Public hearings are an incremental approach to AIDS. Each hearing you gain a little more government action and educate a few more people on AIDS. Pushing Mobilization's agenda at all the important hearings is one way we follow up on our pickets, petitions, demonstrations and visits. They allow us to articulate very specifically what programs we need and when usually we are the only AIDS political organization testifying. Sometimes the only reason the hearing is occurring is because the Mobilization demanded that it occur. This was true of the Congressional Hearings on AIDS in S. F. this last July.

Look for a full report on all these hearings in the media and in our newsletter. And remember -- your support makes it possible.

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Look for a full report on all these hearings in the media and in our newsletter. And remember -- your support makes it possible.

Jan 31, 1987

To: the Hrus Brigade
From: Paul Barnabey

RE: Action in January

Mobilization took significant action on three of its major action programs in January. Preparatory work was also done on ^{other} M.A.A. projects ~~including the~~ ^{including the} worldwide candlelight memorials in support of people with AIDS, the A.M.A. lobby project, and the National Health Insurance ~~project~~ project. However our major endeavors were:

1. Condom Advertisement Campaign - ~~the steering committee added a~~

Perhaps the single most effective action the population as a whole could

take to limit the spread of AIDS would be to use condoms during sexual intercourse.

~~However despite the non existence of an education campaign~~ ^{However} ~~not only~~ ^{However} the government

not only refuses to fund safe sex education campaigns to any significant extent

it also allows the television stations of the country to refuse condom ads. Thus

both the public and the private sectors of the ~~so~~ society are unable to be

utilized in changing ^{the public} behavior in the war against AIDS. The sole national television

station ~~are~~ give for refusing condom ads is that such ads would offend the

audience.

Seeing this problem Mobilization moved to change the television position

utilizing an entirely new strategy. ~~the~~ ~~utilizing~~ Utilizing our contacts
with ~~retirees~~ and elected officials we began a campaign to get
legislative bodies to ask television stations to accept condemn ads for the
good of the city.