

Passive resistance

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We are three weeks from the First Bushevik Convention in New York. In accordance with the Miami Model, about which you have read extensively in previous articles <http://drrant.blogspot.com>, The Busheviks are progressively pursuing their plan for suppressing dissent, and are now in the phase of refusing our right to assembly, harassing participants, instituting Draconian rules, concentrating their command center, and exhibiting and deploying their military power.

As we know from Seattle, Cancun, Miami, Sea Island, Boston. They are not about to back off.

The major 'peace' groups have attempted to negotiate with them. United For Peace and Justice (UFPJ) – the coalition representing hundreds of Peace Organizations nationwide, after being stonewalled in their demand for the exercise of our constitutional rights, decided to accept the decision by the New York Wing of The Bushevik Party – to allow a mass march PAST the Bushevik Convention site at Madison Square Garden, plus the imposition of a 'free speech zone', a miserable venue on a desolate and remote strip of the West Side Highway – for the mass rally after the march – and their denial of the much preferable meadow in Central Park.

In a former life, I was involved in the production of large concerts, and so I became involved in the staging and logistics of the mass rally. This venue was perfect – for the Busheviks. Bleak, exposed to all the elements, distant, inaccessible and remote from the convention site, logistically forbidding – when my concert expert friends and I surveyed the site, we despaired.

Most of all, the Busheviks chose this site specifically to preclude the forming of a Critical Mass. The crowd would be forced to spread north up the Highway, dispersed thinly over 30 odd city blocks, instead of comprising one concentrated, energized mass.

But now, spurred on by the refusal of ANSWER, Not In Our Name and many other groups to accept the horrendous bargain, UFPJ has rejected the plan, and petitioned the City of New York to grant the petition for a mass rally in Central Park, and some of them are instituting lawsuits in Federal Court, in conjunction with ACLU and the National Lawyer's Guild.

The City turned down the new plea within hours of it being presented.

Passive resistance / 2

Hundreds of thousands of citizens want to perform their most fundamental job – that is to say that, when in the course of human events, bad shit happens, we MUST stand up and change things. We MUST.

Our duty and obligation is to DO something. The question is – what form does that take? The model of the sixties and seventies is DEAD. Marching with signs, chanting, yelling, all obsolete and useless. All that does is make us feel we have done something.

And we have not.

Once we fit our actions into pre-ordained governmental strictures, we have been co-opted, and we have submitted to the basic concept that our rights can be NEGOTIATED. They can NOT.

But marching and carrying witty signs mean very little. Peace activists, Onanism.

As a button I saw yesterday, said: Buttons are Not Enough.

We must use Gandhi's Model. Non violence, not only physical but in all things.

The Peace Organizations are wedded to the confrontation model itself. They are participating in a Post Oedipal Pissing Contest – where the question is WHO WINS? Who wins is irrelevant.

Who cares ? The question is, how do we affect Change ?

Forcing the New York City government to allow a rally in Central Park gains us little, and proves nothing. And – we play into Their hands by participating in the pissing contest itself, dissipating our energy on winning a small victory, to gain only self-assuaging relief.

They Win that game, no matter what the final score.

They WANT a physical and violent confrontation.

They WANT a fight about Central Park, not about the real issues.

What this must be is a profound catalyst for galvanizing and mobilizing the forces of change.

Here is my plan: We peacefully walk north up Eighth Avenue, and try to continue walking north to Central Park. When they don't allow it – if, in fact, they don't – we do not try to break through their barriers to Central Park.

We do what Gandhi would do. We all LIE DOWN in front of Madison Square Garden, and all the way down to 14th Street – 3-, 4-, 500,000 people. Lying down. And not moving.

Passive resistance. Non violent.

We all lie down, and we don't get up until they let us walk up to Central Park.

Or they arrest us all.

The World is our witness. And CNN and Fox – what can they show? No violence – only people passively resisting oppression.

What pictures will the Nation and the World see? Police beating or spraying or arresting

Passive resistance / 3

400,000 passive, non-violent people?

Impossible.

We do not attack them. We just LIE DOWN. The Cops will probably attack the first ten rows. Who, as usual, will be the best we've got. And we in the first ten rows, will not move, will not scream, will lie there.

If necessary we will be carried away. It takes four cops to carry one person. How long can that go on ?

Do you think the cops will tear gas people who are LYING DOWN ? Or water hose ? Or Taser ?

ALL of us ? 400 THOUSAND of us ?

The time of the old fashioned march and rally has come and gone.

I am now in my SIXTH decade of this. Started in 1956 in DC, I was 14 ! And now almost 50 years later, the old methods will not work. You cannot negotiate with the police, unless you are willing to emulate Gandhi negotiating with the Crown.

No arguing.

They take their rigid position. And we do what we do in total non violent passive and MASSIVE resistance.

And the world is our witness.

And the undecideds see it, and the people in the swing states see it.

It is undeniable.

And this can affect change, and can motivate people to join with us, hopefully in a movement which will not take a snooze if Kerry is elected.

If we proceed with the current plan, we can be sure that the August 29 Evening News will show raging violent anarchist hippies attacking the cops, and once again the country, in its desperation to feel safe, will embrace the cops, and we will have won nothing.