May 10, 1972

An Occasional Memo

CALC at the Honeywell Stockholders' Meeting.

Honeywell's 1972 Annual Shareholders' Meeting began about 20 minutes late because stockholders and proxyholders were being let in the door of the Minneapolis Auditorium by twos and escorted to a table where Honeywell employees checked out their proxy or admission cards, and were then led upstairs individually by one of a fleet of specially hired Burns guards where they got their admission badges and then finally got into the meeting room. Before the meeting was officially opened by James Binger, Chairman of the Board, Sister Mary Luke Tobin, joined by Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Dr. Robert McAfee Brown, and Bishop Walter Schoenerr, led a responsive prayer asking for the corporation to "beat their swords into plowshares." Copies of the prayer were handed out by CALC people to all present at the meeting so they could join in. After the prayer, Sister Tobin told Mr. Binger that she had wanted to present him with a "Swords into Plowshares" award (in the form of an appropriately inscribed plowshare) to commend Honeywell for no longer producing guava (BLU-26) bombs.* However, since the plowshare was not allowed into the meeting, Sister Tobin could not make the presentation. Mr. Binger agreed to accept the plowshare after the meeting.

Noting that the meeting would be run according to his rules as Chairman and not by parliamentary procedure and that the Board represented some 15,900,000 of the 18,000,000 shares of common stock, Mr. Binger opened the meeting. The items for discussion and vote were: (1) election/re-election of the Board of Directors; (2) selection of auditors for the 1972 financial statement to stockholders; (3) consideration and voting on two stockholder proposals to Honeywell---#1 asked the corporation to set up a Committee on Economic Conversion and #2 asked them to disclose contracts in support of military actions in Southeast Asia.

The Board listened to over two and a half hours of statements of concern about Honeywell's production of anti-personnel weapons and about Honeywell's steadfast policy of making whatever weapons the government (and the Pentagon) asked them to make. Among the shareholders speaking out were people from the CALC delegation (12 chapters represented by 21 people);

* The reason for Honeywell's no longer making guava bombs, according to an article in Business Week, April 15, 1972, is that the Air Force stopped buying guava bombs last fall because it is testing out a more "effective" bomb--the BLU-63 which explodes into shrapnel fragments rather than steel balls--and the guava stockpiles were expected to last until mid-1973.
people from the Minneapolis-based Council for Corporate Review delegation; Dr. Howard Schomer representing the United Church of Christ Board of World Ministries (and its nearly half-million dollars of stock); Florence Little representing the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church; Lincoln Eldredge representing students and faculty of Andover-Newton Theological Seminary; and other concerned stockholders. In spite of the serious concerns that were raised, the Board responded that it too wanted a world without war but until that time, it would continue to do research and development for and production of any type of weapons it was asked to provide. The actions which came out of the meeting were: the Board re-elected itself, the auditing firm that has been used by Honeywell for nearly 30 years was re-selected, and the two stockholder proposals were defeated.

A post-meeting note: Honeywell took out full-page ads in both the Minneapolis papers asking "Should Honeywell Stop Making Munitions?" According to Mary Williams, president of the Council for Corporate Review, who has been through several years of Honeywell campaigning in Minneapolis, probably half of the people in the Twin Cities did not know, until that ad came out, that Honeywell really was in the "munitions business."

"Swords into Plowshares"

The night before the Honeywell stockholders' meeting, over 1000 people attended an ecumenical worship service for the conversion of Honeywell. Minnesota Clergy and Laymen Concerned and the International Affairs Committee of the Minnesota Council of Churches were joint sponsors of the service at the Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church in Minneapolis.

"We weep for the perversion of conscience that permits good men to act evilly and not feel pain," said Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Director of Interfaith Activities of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in the prayer of forgiveness. "We weep for America's 'successful' men who, for the sake of profit, have no ear for the words of the prophet. And we pray, O Lord, for life. Against their machines we have only words and hope—a slender prayer."

Dr. Robert McAfee Brown, Protestant theologian and professor at Stanford University, gave a sermon based on the text, Micah 4:1-5—"Beat your swords into plowshares and your spears into pruning hooks." Dr. Brown spoke of the need for "outer transformation"—from war to peace, turning "bomb cannisters that send death to Vietnam...into blood cannisters that bring life to Vietnam" and "our diplomatic chicanery into words that once again men can believe"—and of the need for "inner transformation"—a shift of personal priorities so that people count for more than things, a shift from injustice to justice. Dr. Brown also said that the employees and the stockholders of Honeywell are "probably, individually, good and decent people. But they have gotten involved in a web of evil of such a sort that individually good and decent people are collectively doing evil and indecent things and that must be stopped when the victims of the collective evil are our fellow human beings." Ending his sermon, Dr. Brown expressed the hope that "there are enough decent people among them (Honeywell stockholders) so that they will recoil from making profits for themselves at the price of lacerating and destroying the flesh of innocent people they have never met."
Preceding the rite of blessing and commissioning for the three religious leaders who would to to pray for the corporation at the Honeywell stockholders' meeting the next day, Sister Mary Luke Tobin, Representative-at-Large of the Sisters of Loretto, offered a "summing-up prayer" in which she asked that American would have the strength to say "no" to war and to the making of "ugly weapons of destruction" and that corporations would turn from "the way of death to the way of life and health."

(Single copies of Rabbi Brickner's prayer, of Dr. Brown's sermon, and of the prayer offered at the stockholders' meeting will be sent upon request. Please write to: Barbara Armentrout, Clergy and Laymen Concerned, 637 W. 125th Street, New York, N.Y. 10027.)

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**CALC at the G.E. Stockholders' Meeting**

The General Electric stockholders' meeting was held on April 26th in Houston, Texas at the Sheraton-Lincoln (IT&T) hotel. The activities around the meeting were planned by the Houston Clergy and Laity and national CALC.

On the evening of the 25th, a panel discussion and teach-in on "Churches and Corporate Responsibility" was held before a group of 100 people. Participants were Ross Flanagan, CALC Steering Committee from Philadelphia Life Center; Trudi Young, CALC Co-Director; Rev. Cliff Kirkpatrick, Metropolitan Ministry in Houston; and Lionel Castillo, the Comptroller of the City of Houston. After the panel, the 100 people joined others in a worship service in a "bomb crater" excavation site on the university campus. The service was accentuated by the drone of several large jets that flew toward the airport over the crater, making us all somber and mindful of the relationship of planes to real craters in Indochina.

Inside the meeting were seven representatives from local and national CALC. We had ample time to speak at several points in the agenda. Francis Kenoyer, Denver (representing both CALC and Sisters of Loretto's stock) spoke to the nominees for Board of Directors of G.E., mentioning the need for someone(s) on that Board to represent the moral and social questions raised by corporate responsibility. She nominated Trudi Young to the Board and spoke of her credentials for the position, outlined the nature of the air war and G.E.'s complicity in the process. Trudi did not get elected to the Board (!) though she apparently received quite a number of votes from the stockholders present. Jhonnye Ste. Angelle (Dallas CALC) and Ms. Young read CALC's three resolutions into the minutes of the meeting and discussed at some length the moral and business reasons why G.E. needed to deal with these at this time rather than following usual procedure (which would mean waiting until next year). We engaged Mr. Borch, Chairman of the Board and President of G.E., in quite a bit of discussion on the resolutions. Dr. David Hunter, Deputy General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, spoke to the shareholders about social and corporate responsibility pointing out (1) that G.E. could not lay responsibility for the air war on Mr. Nixon since they produced the materiel for the war and without that there could be no war, and (2) that G.E. could not argue weapons business in terms of defense research, since the Indochina war would then be, in effect, testing of weapons for American defense at the expense of millions of Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian lives.
After the stockholders' meeting, CALC rented a room at the Sheraton (they almost refused until we threatened them with a discrimination suit—they were charging that violence would erupt out of our room). Several stockholders and members of the press came to this session for a presentation of the NARMIC slides and to discuss the air war with CALC people.

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Honeywell Campaign at a Grassroots Level

At the end of April, 19 CALC chapters—from California to Massachusetts—initiated the nationwide Honeywell Campaign. One of the first steps taken by most groups were meetings with local Honeywell plant or sales office representatives to talk about Honeywell's production of anti-personnel weapons—followed by a press conference announcing the start of the campaign.

The response of most Honeywell officials who agreed to meet with CALC was to read a statement sent out by Honeywell's Minneapolis office. However, some of the officials then added their own comments "off the record." In Louisville, the two representatives strongly supported their company's production of anti-personnel weapons and offered to debate the matter with seminary students. In Greenville, a regional representative from Charlotte, N.C. said he would write to the main office to get more information. In several cities (Washington, D.C. area, Omaha, Cleveland, Harrisburg), Honeywell officials agreed to post ads in their plants or offices about showings of the NARMIC slide show about the electronic battlefield.

Leafleting outside Honeywell plants and offices occurred in several cities on the day of the stockholders' meeting. In Phoenix, 16 leafletters were arrested for trespassing in front of a hotel/convention center where Honeywell has a sales office and where the CALC group was planning to show the NARMIC slides (until the hotel cancelled their reservation for a meeting room). All the other actions on April 26th went on uninterrupted, including: *a 'funeral' outside the Harrisburg Honeywell office where 56 CALC people hung a wreath on the Honeywell sign and draped the entrance to the office with black cloth; *an anti-anti-personnel liturgy outside a Honeywell complex in the Washington, D.C. area. Leafleting outside Honeywell outlets is planned again in several cities on Moratorium Day—May 4th.

Weekly vigils outside of Honeywell plants and offices and organizing ongoing peace task forces in local church congregations are also scheduled by many CALC groups as part of the ongoing Honeywell Campaign. Other local projects aimed at the goal of getting "Honeywell to publicly announce that it will cease and desist production of anti-personnel weapons used in Southeast Asia by the 1973 stockholders' meeting include: *working with the American Institute of Architects to mount an architects' boycott of Honeywell thermostats and with contractors to boycott Honeywell systems on those blueprints where a company is not specified (Southern California); *placing a large anti-Honeywell sign where it is visible from the highway (Denver); *placing an anti-Honeywell ad in the local paper (Louisville); *working in coalition with university students (Western Mass., Boston); *working with statewide church bodies to change their investment policies to reflect their concern about their responsibility for the continuing war (Boston-Mass. Conf. of UCC); *visiting camera store owners to get them to at least write to Honeywell, if not take their cameras off their shelves (Ann Arbor); *encouraging churches to withhold a %age (equal to Honeywell's weapons sales) of bills owed to Honeywell until it gets out of the war business (Buffalo); *working with Honeywell employees (Arizona, Chicago—In Chicago, some CALC people joined striking electrical workers outside the Honeywell plant).