

LAS VEGAS REVIEW/JOURNAL, Tuesday, June 3, 1986

## Record number of nuke protesters arrested

By Laura Wingard  
Review-Journal

A three-day anti-nuclear demonstration at the Nevada Test Site ended Monday with a record number of 149 protesters arrested for misdemeanor trespassing after a throng of supporters converged on a white line on the road leading to the test site's main gate.

Among those arrested were Daniel

Ellsberg, a former government employee who released the Pentagon Papers; author Ann Druyan, wife of astrophysicist Carl Sagan; and Drs. Lester Grinspoon and John Mack, professors at Harvard University Medical School.

Actor Robert Blake said in April that he also would be at the test site Monday to be arrested but he didn't attend the protest, sponsored by the

American Peace Test.

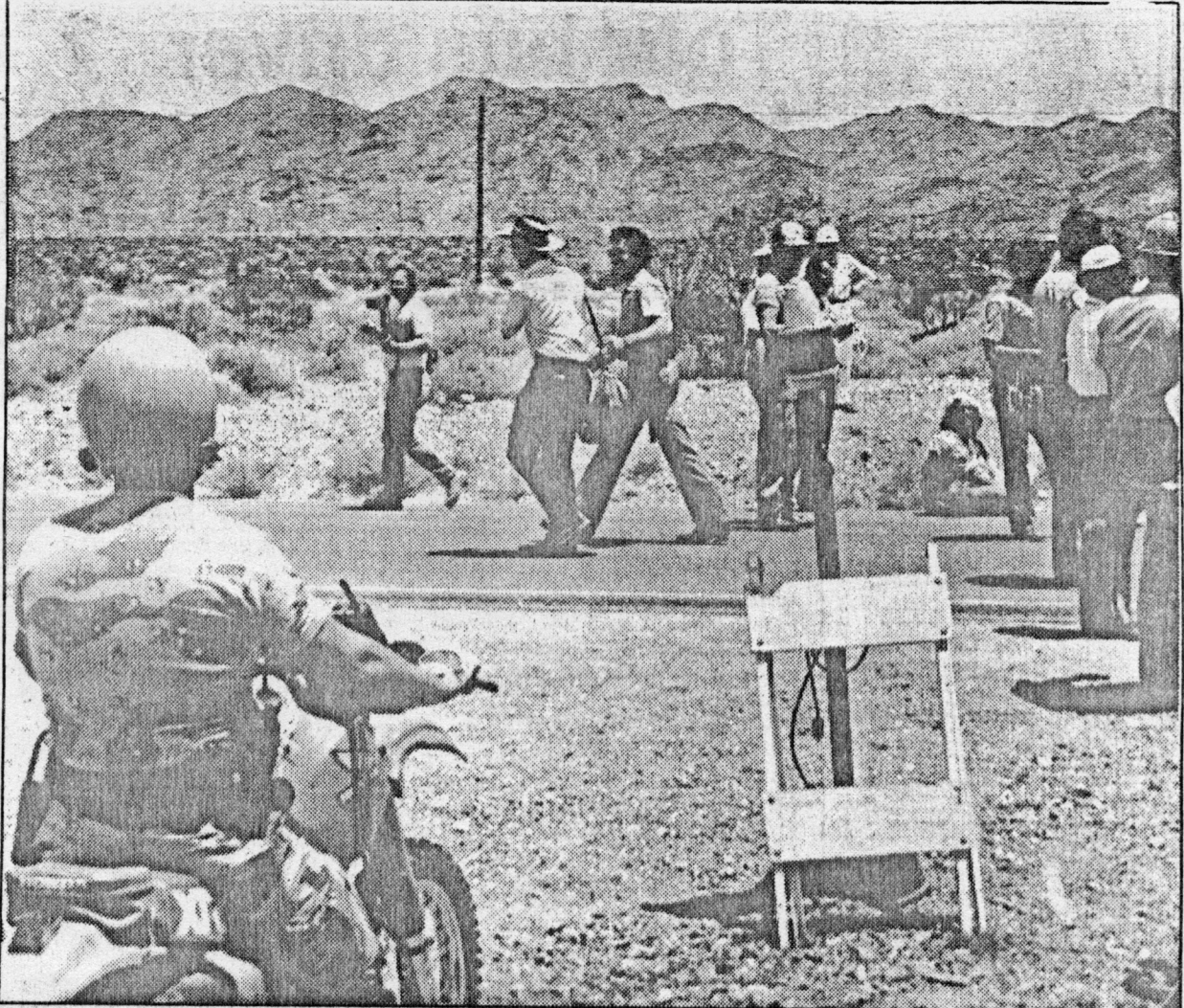
Jessie Cocks of the American Peace Test estimated Monday's crowd at 400. But Jim Boyer, a Department of Energy spokesman, said it was 250 at most.

However, Cocks also challenged Boyer's figure that 250 attended Saturday's peace rally at Camp Desert Rock, an area where soldiers witnessed aboveground atomic blasts in

the 1950s. She said about 600 attended the rally where Sagan, Ellsberg and others spoke to the crowd.

Of the 149 arrested Monday by Nye County sheriff's deputies, 42 signed citations requiring them to appear for arraignment June 18 and 25 in Nye County Justice Court in Beatty. The other 107 were taken to the court Monday for arraignment.

**Please see ARRESTS/4A**



Tom Lynch/Review-Journal

**ELLSBERG ARRESTED AGAIN** - Daniel Ellsberg talks to a Nye County sheriff's deputy after being arrested Monday for trespassing on the Nevada Test Site. He was one of 149 anti-

nuclear protesters arrested, a record for the most arrests at a test site demonstration. Ellsberg also was arrested in April for infiltrating the test site.

## Arrests

### From 1A

A court spokesman said Justice of the Peace Bill Sullivan would try to arraign as many as possible Monday, but some would be released and ordered to appear June 18 and 25.

Boyer said at least four of the protesters also will be charged with resisting arrest for refusing to walk to one of the three buses, which were there to take them to Beatty. Deputies and DOE security guards had to carry the four to the buses.

All but about a dozen of the protesters peacefully crossed the white line, which DOE has established as a boundary for the test site, 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The others walked to the side of the road and crawled through a barbed wire fence to try to evade arrest but were quickly captured by deputies.

The 149 arrests began at 12:50 p.m. and ended about 10 minutes later. While the arrests were being made, the other protesters who did not commit civil disobedience sang "Give Peace a Chance" and then chanted, "The people united will never be defeated" and "Stop testing."

The previous record for most arrests at a test site protest occurred in August 1985 when 121 were charged with trespassing. The demonstration was timed to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

As Ellsberg prepared to walk across the white line Monday, Nye County sheriff's Lt. Jim Merlino told him, "You know this is a waste of time. But if you choose to do it, you will be arrested for trespassing."

Ellsberg ignored the warning. While restrained in plastic handcuffs, he turned to the crowd on the other side of the line and clapped his hands.

Ellsberg was one of 14 anti-nuclear protesters arrested in April for infiltrating the Nevada Test Site to try to stop an April 10 test called Mighty Oak. He and the other 13 worked out an agreement with the Nye County district attorney in which they changed their not guilty pleas to guilty and were fined \$500 and \$10 in court costs, a court spokesman said.

Moments before Druyan walked across the line with Grinspoon, her

husband kissed her.

Before her arrest, Druyan said she was impressed with the contrast between the glitter of Las Vegas' casinos and the demonstration in the "magical barren desert" at the test site.

"It gives me hope," she said. "It's a wake up call for a country that has been asleep for 10 or 15 years."

Druyan also criticized the Reagan administration for ignoring a unilateral nuclear weapons testing moratorium started by the Soviets last August and due to expire Aug. 6 — a sentiment Sagan expressed at Saturday's rally.

She called the underground nuclear detonations at the test site "a kind of rehearsal for a holocaust."

"That's such a terrible moral wrong," Druyan said. "I feel it is my duty to do this."

Mack, a psychiatry professor, walked across the white line with his wife and three sons.

"If we as a family take a stand, maybe we'll get other families to at least talk about the nuclear arms race around the dinner table," Mack said.