

## **PICKET THE PENTAGON**

We were recently asked by a group of grass roots strategic defense advocates what additional actions might be taken to get a strategic defense deployed within 20 months from today. Present efforts to do this seem to have failed.

With a Soviet strategic defense system now expected to be operational by the end of 1989, some people are correctly concerned that America may not be permitted to deploy a system if the Soviet system is completed first.

I suggested an intense lobbying effort by the grass roots people themselves in the Senate and House office buildings and additional efforts by the national strategic defense organizations.

Too little of the effort of political organizations finds its way into productive activity. Fund raising and donation inducing activities like lecturing to supporters, gala blacktie dinners, and mail campaigns for funds consume most of their efforts. This is especially true after the organization has a salaried staff. The staff spends its time assuring funding for its own continuation.

Strategic defense can only be built by the federal government. You cannot make your own backyard antimissile missile system. Therefore, it requires national political action. Ask your favorite strategic defense advocate how much time he or she actually spends wearing out shoe leather in the Senate and House office buildings. Insist upon 50%.

The second suggestion which I made was that grass roots strategic defense supporters "picket the pentagon".

The Department of Defense has \$300 billion per year with which to defend the American people. They are spending it on thousands of entrenched projects and bureaucracies which act in their own self interests instead of the interests of a coherent and effective defense.

Congress is made up of politicians who are primarily former lawyers. Regardless of political crosscurrents, they depend for most of their defense information upon the Pentagon. The Pentagon is just not telling them that a strategic defense and a civil defense are needed now.