



# 30 at Law Day Ceremony Walk Out, Anger Judge

By JEROL GARRISON  
Of the Gazette Staff

Thirty persons walked out of a Law Day ceremony Saturday at Little Rock to protest the Vietnam war and the choice of Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the Army chief of staff, as the speaker for the ceremony. About 150 persons remained for the program and gave Westmoreland two standing ovations.

The protesters left their seats and filed silently out of federal Judge J. Smith Henley's courtroom on the fourth floor of the Postoffice Building as Westmoreland began his speech on the Law Day theme, "Change Through Law and Reason."

Westmoreland ignored the walkout, but Judge Henley,

who presided and had invited the general, was critical of it. "I want to say a final word, mostly to some folks who are not here," the judge said from the bench at the close of the 45-minute ceremony.

Referring to the walkout, Judge Henley said, "Were this an ordinary and usual court proceeding, the court would have stopped those people and dealt with them rather sharply, because the court ordinarily does not tolerate interruptions of any kind during the session of court."

"Their action in leaving was most discourteous to those appearing on the program today and to the court. And it is to young folks of this kind that Law Day USA should mean the most."

"The underlying theme of the message today — channel change through law and order — is that the law is established by society to be a flexible and continually evolving process to meet the needs of a changing society. But the interests of society are not served by seeking change through dissident means outside the law. Make no mistake about it, where law ends, tyranny begins. And tyranny weighs no less heavily upon the people merely because those who impose it mean well and do so with high purpose and with all good will."

Five lawyers were in the protest group. There were several middle-aged persons in

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## General

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the group, but most were in their 20s.

Miss Fran Pritchett, 23, of Little Rock, a spokesman for the protesters, said, "We think it's an insult to the city of Little Rock that a man who is a chief mover in an illegal, undeclared and immoral war should be invited to speak on Law Day." Westmoreland formerly commanded the United States armed forces in Vietnam.

Steve Herman, one of the lawyers who walked out, said, "I can't see how he [Westmoreland] has any relevance to Law Day."

Most of the protesters remained in front of the Postoffice Building and handed out antiwar literature to persons learning the ceremony. Some carried signs protesting the war.

"I'm glad you're here — there's too many wars and I have lived through all of them," a gray-haired woman told the protesters as she left the building.

Westmoreland said in his 15-minute speech that "the rule of law must be looked on both in theory and practice as the only rational avenue for change."

"Our way of life must proceed on the basis of a broad and general agreement on goals, an accepted set of values, and concepts of social justice and general agreement on what is tolerable and what is not. If this underlying consensus disappears, then the complex mechanisms of our democracy cannot function."

The general said that change: (1) "Must come through the ordered processes of government," (2) "must be the product of open debate and reasoned dialogue," and (3) "must be controlled and guided largely by the ethical and moral principles on which this nation was founded."

Westmoreland said that "if we as a people are to enhance law and order, an environment must first be developed in which more of our populace recognizes the need to obey the law rather than the need to enforce the law."

He said that policemen were needed in any society and "if the American public expects quality law enforcement — and I believe it does — then those who are invested with this duty must be accorded the respect, the confidence, and the trust of the people whom they serve."

"And just as we can not expect a quality police force without public respect, neither can we expect quality armed forces without public confidence and support. Both are essential if our nation is to remain the land of the free and the home of the brave."





# Gazette.

## Little Rock Forecast

Cloudy and mild today with a chance of showers, cool tonight. A high of 78 is forecast today and a low of 50 tonight. Saturday's high was 78, the low 46.

(Weather Map on Page 5C.)

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Federal Judges G. Thomas Eisele of Little Rock and Oren Harris of El Dorado presided with Judge Henley. "We feel highly honored to have one of our most distinguished military servants here with us," Judge Harris told Westmoreland when he finished. He said Westmoreland "has performed throughout most of his life in the service of his country in order to protect those values that \*\*\* we cherish."

Westmoreland left after the speech for Hot Springs, where he addressed the Arkansas National Guard Association. He was not present to hear Judge Henley's remarks about the walkout.

(At Hot Springs, Westmoreland said that by the end of July, over-all Army strength will have decreased from more than 1.5 million to 1.1 million over a two-year period.

(Substantial reductions in the size of active forces means greatly increased reliance on reserve components of four services, Westmoreland said. He said that there must be as close as possible working relationship between the active and reserve forces.

(All components must adjust to certain realities in the aftermath of the Vietnam war, he said.

("Constraints of decreasing budgets, coupled with rising manpower, material and operating costs mean that only through reductions in the size of our military establishment can the defense budget be kept in balance.

("As a matter of interest, personnel costs now account for about half of our budget, and our annual cost to support

a soldier has doubled in less than 10 years.")

One of those who walked out of the Little Rock ceremony was Mrs. Frances Pritchett, secretary to Judge Eisele. Her daughter, Fran, and son, Daniel, 17, also walked out. Rev. William L. Holshouser Jr., a Presbyterian minister, and Dr. Mary Lou Mills, a 1970 graduate of the University of Arkansas Medical School, were participants in the walkout.

Besides Herman, the lawyers who left the ceremony were John P. Sizemore, John F. Forster Jr., A. T. (Ted) Goodloe, and Jay C. Lipner. Herman and Lipner are on the staff of the Pulaski County Legal Aid Bureau.

The ceremony was sponsored by the Pulaski County Bar Association and many judges and lawyers attended. William H. Bowen, president of the Bar Association, appointed Judge Henley chairman of the ceremony and also

served as co-chairman.

Judge Henley said in an interview afterward that he had invited Westmoreland to address the ceremony after learning that he would be in the state to address the Arkansas National Guard Association. He said it wasn't often that the chief of staff of the Army was available for a speech and that the invitation didn't have any connection with the Vietnam war.

Westmoreland, who frequently is the target of anti-war demonstrations, was ushered in and out of the Postoffice Building by a side entrance. One protestor carrying literature was at the side entrance when the general left,

but the general brushed by without taking any. "Good morning, how are you?" Westmoreland said.

More than 30 plainclothes law enforcement officers, mostly from federal agencies, were on duty on the sidewalk, in the postoffice lobby, in the corridors leading to the courtroom and in the courtroom.

When the protest group walked out, nine plainclothes security men led by United States Marshal Lynn A. Davis got up and walked out of the courtroom behind them and followed them out of the building. It was learned later that the security men were guards that the General Services Administration had brought in from Texas.

The federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division, United States marshal's office, FBI, Secret Service, State Police, Little Rock police and the Army all contributed men to the security force on duty at the Postoffice Building.

An FBI agent and Secret Service agent were in the lobby with cameras around their necks before the ceremony. An FBI agent with a camera sat up front in the courtroom and another security man with a camera set at the rear of the courtroom.

Persons emerging from the elevator on the fourth floor were motioned by three GSA guards toward the courtroom and were not allowed to go in the other direction unless they could furnish a reason.

After the protesters walked out, security men with cameras kept them under surveillance on the sidewalk.





Staff Photo by Pat Patterson

## Some of the Protesters Leaving

While Deputy United States Marshal Herschel Garner (standing next to wall with arms folded) watches, some of the 30 protesters leave the Law Ceremony. Those seated in the foreground include Osro Cobb, a lawyer, former United States District Attorney, and former State Supreme Court justice, Mayor Wimberley

and City Manager Jack T. Meriwether (hand to forehead). State Representative Calvin R. Ledbetter Jr. is seated in the middle toward the rear. (Article on Page 1A. Other pictures on Page 2A.)