

# APRIL 1977 DAY BY DAY

A month that changed the United States forever

## FRIDAY APRIL 1

Organizers contact everyone they know and urge them to call everyone *they* know to join the upcoming action.

## SATURDAY APRIL 2

Nationally, American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD) prepares a national sit-in for April 5th. Berkeley Center for Independent Living (CIL) organizers agree to keep plans quiet so that they can enter the building and sit-in. Cesar Chavez, President of the *Farm Workers of America*, sends an early letter of support.

## SUNDAY APRIL 3

More phone calls and long conversations at the Berkeley CIL about the upcoming protest.

## MONDAY APRIL 4

Deadline the ACCD set for signing the Section 504 regulations, threatening nationwide protests.

## DAY 1 TUESDAY APRIL 5

Demonstrators at ten federal offices across the US demand that President Carter's Administration sign the 504 regulations without watering them down. Sit-ins begin in SF and D.C.

**San Francisco:** A large group enters the HEW offices on the fourth floor of the Federal Building. Over 100 protesters are locked in for the night. Community organizers from Delancey Street bring food; Salvation Army finds blankets and mattresses.

**Washington DC:** 300 protesters heckle Secretary Joseph Califano to sign the Section 504 regulations unchanged. Many protesters stay in the HEW office overnight.

## DAY 2 WEDNESDAY APRIL 6

**San Francisco:** After sleeping on the Federal Building floor, over 100 people wake to their first full day of the sit-in.

**Washington DC:** The occupiers leave the building; no food or access to medicine, and unsympathetic guards, made it impossible to stay.

**Other cities:** Protests fizzle out without community support.

## DAY 3 THURSDAY APRIL 7

**San Francisco:** At least 130 people now at the sit-in. HEW officials turn off hot water, deactivate all but two pay phones, and limit other phones to incoming calls. HEW prohibits any occupiers leaving the building from re-entering.

## DAY 4 FRIDAY APRIL 8

**San Francisco:** Occupiers learn that Los Angeles protest is over. Congressman George Miller visits the sit-in. Delancey Street and a few local businesses donate food. Eight people start a hunger strike. Black Panther Party sends letter of support. A small group of protesters celebrate the last day of Passover inside the fourth floor elevator.

## DAY 5 SATURDAY APRIL 9

**San Francisco:** *The San Francisco Chronicle* reports that occupiers are now 150 strong; they form committees to handle daily tasks and duties; a routine develops and each day counts.

## DAY 6 SUNDAY APRIL 10

**San Francisco:** Easter service at 10am is followed by an egg hunt for occupiers' children in the Federal Building's courtyard. Congressman George Miller speaks to the occupiers and urges them to remain. Ed Roberts, Director of California Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, sends a telegram to President Carter. Pay phones are jammed with coins; occupiers can't communicate with anyone outside.

Protester Lucy Muir's quick drawing "Eating off [HEW] Director Maldonado's Desk."





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