

BERKELEY ACTION

THE NEWSLETTER OF
BERKELEY CITIZENS
ACTION

FEBRUARY 1988

Berkeley Loves John George Tribute ♥ See Inside for more photos



Photos by Richard Bermack

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DELLUMS AGAINST THE CONTRA WAR

Excerpts from the speech of Congressman Ron Dellums before the recent vote to cut off aid to the Contras.

Mr. Chairman, we are about to lose a generation of our children. I live every day on the principle that this generation has a responsibility to turn over to our children a better world than the one we inherited. Our responsibility, Mr. Chairman, is not to give our children another generation of the insanities of war, and myopic perspectives, but to guarantee our children a generation of peace, and I say let it start in Central America. Peace is not simply the absence of war, Mr. Chairman. Peace is the alternative to war.

In Central America we have an alternative to war. We can sit down peacefully and democratically and bring in all parties together to begin to negotiate beyond the insanity of war. If the human spirit could get beyond the notion that we could sell other human beings as chattel, if the human spirit could get beyond the notion of the divine right of kings, then the human spirit

can get beyond the notion of the insanity of war. Mr. Chairman, in Central America we have a responsibility to engage in a generation of peace. Peace is not simply the absence of war, Mr. Chairman. Peace is the absence of conditions that give rise to war.

Mr. Chairman, the only way we are going to remove the conditions of war is by sitting down and beginning to negotiate.

We are not waging war on the Government of Nicaragua, we are destroying the people of Nicaragua with our economic insanity and our aid to the Contras to maim, kill, torture and harm human beings in the countryside of Nicaragua.

Mr. Chairman, this is not the kind of world that we should turn over to our children. We have to begin to deal with peace and that is what ought to drive us to not only challenge this proposal but every proposal that comes before us in the name of war...

Finally, Mr. Chairman, peace does not come through the barrel of a gun or through the bombay doors. Peace becomes reality when one is committed to democratic principles and committed to alleviate the conditions that give rise to war. The world is crying out for peace. Yes, it is crying out for peace in Afghanistan, it is crying out for peace in Central America, it is crying out for peace in southern Africa, and it cries out for peace in the ghettos and the barrios of America. We have to begin to deal with that. Let the national security policies include those conditions, and we will have turned over to the children a much better world than the one we inherited.

BCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Steering Committee Elections
Berkeley/Albany Municipal Court
Endorsements**

**7:30 PM • Sunday, February 28
Unitarian Fellowship, Cedar & Bonita**