

DAVID PACKARD: Mad Bomber of the Year

by Lenny Siegel

Palo Alto, March 1, 1972.

Electronics tycoon and former Deputy Defense Secretary David Packard received two awards last night in his home town, ^{Palo Alto} At a \$10-a-plate dinner in the plush Rickey's Hyatt House, the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce presented him with its "Distinguished Citizen Award." Outside, ~~four to~~ ^{400 to 500} five-hundred ~~men~~ chanting anti-war demonstrators attempted to crown Packard "Mad Bomber of the Year."

Demonstrators, who were mobilized by the Committee for Just Rewards, gathered at 6:00 pm ~~at~~ at an empty lot a quarter mile from Rickey's. The crowd, four hundred strong, marched down one lane of El Camino Real-- a main thoroughfare--with a police escort. Marchers carried NLF flags, red flags, and banners condemning Packard, who supervised the creation of the electronic battlefield, as a war criminal.

The police, including units from several local cities, were out in force, but maintained a low profile. The Palo Alto Police Chief handed out a leaflet entitled "'Oink--Suggestions for a Peaceful Demonstration from Palo Alto's Super-Pig."

The marchers, led by a death-figure pulling a little red wagon carrying the Mad Bomber Award--a three-foot high mini-mis~~ile~~---attempted to enter the courtyard at Rickey's but were blocked by police and county sheriffs. After a brief confrontation with police, the demonstrators returned to El Camino, forming a picket line which block^{ed} two lanes of traffic. In the course of the evening two people were arrested.

San Francisco

Inside the banquet, which was attended by the/Peninsula's most distinguished citizens, two anti-war representatives attempted to make statements condemning Packard's role in the Pentagon and at his company, Hewlett-Packard. Both, paying guests at the dinner, were ejected.

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Packard, in his acceptance speech, defended Nixon administration policies in Indochina, and attacked campus "anti-military campaigns." Without specifically naming recently fired English Professor Bruce Franklin, Packard congratulated Stanford University for ridding itself of "purveyors of evil."

"If there are mad bombers in this country," said Packard--~~WHH~~ the man who explained the ABM to Congress--"they are probably in front of Rickey's tonight."