Eighteen months ago we gathered on the steps of this capitol to mobilize for survival. Today we return, mobilized again, to say no to the Cruise missile, no to the Pershing II, and no to the administration which has sanctioned the destruction of this planet. Eighteen months ago we stood some distance from this destruction. Today we stand in the very shadow of death.

We gather here because as our chances to survive have decreased, our will to survive has increased, and again we will proceed, whatever the obstacles before us. We proceed as outraged citizens of this democracy, in solidarity with the outraged citizens of European democracies, and as the collective conscience of a world on the eve of annihilation. We cannot do less.

The danger we face is the danger of a whole new and deadly generation of missiles. The Cruise, fifteen feet in length, has fifteen times the destructive power of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. It is so tiny it can be hidden behind a couch, so mobile it can be launched from a truck, and so accurate it can strike within feet of its target.
It can fly just above trees, and well below radar. A missile so mobile, so accurate, and so undetectable is virtually impossible to verify, and thus, once deployed, will practically eliminate any chance for successful arms control negotiations.

The Pershing II is not a defensive weapon, but rather "a missile in search of a mission." It is designed for "decapitation" -- to wipe out the Soviet complex of communication, control, and command -- and the Pershing II can do it in 350 seconds. Thus the Soviets, six minutes from destruction, will be tempted to employ a first-strike against us. And of course, with virtually no warning time, the possibility of a Soviet attack launched by computer error becomes a grave probability.

Since the resolution of the Cuban missile crisis of 1963, neither the U.S. or the U.S.S.R. has possessed land based missiles outside its own territory with the range to reach the other's territory. But with our deployment of the 572 Euromissiles -- both Cruise and Pershing -- the United States would unilaterally break this 20 year de facto moratorium.
We live in a world armed with 50,000 nuclear weapons. In the last 12 years the U.S. and the Soviet Union have added over 5,000 strategic nuclear weapons each to their arsenals. The nuclear weapons arsenal of the world now represents 6,000 the firepower of all the weapons used in World War II, including the two atomic bombs dropped on Japan. With no end to this escalation in sight, most Americans have felt that the fate of the earth is beyond our control. We have been overwhelmed with confusion and horror and helplessness. This psychic numbness is the understandable result of raising our nuclear consciousness.

But we must move beyond this awesome awareness of the danger before us. We must break through this mental paralysis to formulate alternatives, and implement action. We must convince others that the Stone-Age emotions of the Ray-gun administration are incompatible with the Space Age technology of the modern world.

We must realize finally and immediately that the security of our country does not exist in a vacuum. Our security is dependent upon Soviet security. We will not feel safe unless we allow them to feel safe. We cannot survive unless they survive.
Nuclear strategy is in a hole which is getting deeper every day. There may be many possibilities for getting out of it, but above all, we need time to find these solutions. So we should adopt the first law of holes: STOP DIGGING. The first step out must be to abandon the deployment of the Pershing and Cruise missiles.

Ten years ago this week we witnessed an incredible display of American democracy in action. In the infamous Saturday Night Massacre, Richard Nixon ordered the attorney general to fire the Watergate special prosecutor. Rather than fire Mr. Cox, Mr. Richardson resigned, and both the White House and Congress were flooded with telegrams of public protest. We are now presented with a similar opportunity to rise above our complacency.

On Tuesday, the House will vote on the Sabo-McKinney Amendment to the military appropriations bill. If passed, this amendment would cut off funding for the maintenance, support, and transportation of the Cruise and Pershing missiles for six months. Hundreds of thousands protest today in Canada, Europe, Australia, and Japan, but because these missiles are our missiles, ours is the protest that can make the real difference.
I call upon all of you to translate your action in coming here today into one which will have a monumental impact. I urge us all to stop talking to each other and to begin talking to others. We must reach our parents and our children, our brothers and sisters, our co-workers, our neighbors, and our friends. If we advocate the cause of peace, if we believe in the future of this planet, we must act, and prompt others to act - not this year, not this month, but NOW.

The one thing we can be sure of with all politicians is that they want to be re-elected. They count their mail. When you leave this place, send a telegram or mailgram to your House representative urging him to support the Sabo-McKinney Ammendment. Call and visit your friends and relatives and convince them to do the same.

On the anniversary of the Saturday Night Massacre, let us once again demand a voice in the policy of this nation; let us once again refuse to be deceived by a calloused administration; let us once again rise up to preserve this democracy, and in so doing, do our best to preserve the world.
Call or cable your Representative. Tell him to support the Sabo-McKinney Amendment. Tell him to stop the missile deployment. Tell him to adopt the first law of holes and stop digging - now.