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Police Halt Grab of UW Buildings

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(Of The State Journal Staff)

Demonstrating University of Wisconsin students seized control of several University buildings briefly Tuesday afternoon but withdrew in the face of a large, riot-equipped police contingent.

There were no arrests, and no one was hospitalized. Punches were thrown, however, as several students tried to enter buildings blocked by protesters.

ABOUT 180 city police, sheriff's deputies, and county traffic police embarked from school buses at the foot of Bascom Hill and moved in a group up the Hill at 3:20 p.m.

As they passed buildings where demonstrators, out to back black students' demands, blocked entrances the students withdrew.

Minutes before the police reached Bascom Hall, Madison Chancellor Edwin Young warned students blocking the door to disperse or they would be arrested for unlawful assembly.

A co-ed rushed excitedly into Bascom Hall, exclaiming, "There are more cops coming than I've ever seen in my life."

UNIVERSITY POLICE Chief Ralph Hanson then entered with police and ordered them to "go through the entire building and clear the whole building. It'll be closed down right now." Within

minutes, his orders had been carried out.

After clearing the building, police left and formed a single line in front of Bascom Hall, where they faced an angry mob of shouting students estimated by Hanson at more than 2,000.

POLICE THEN moved around Bascom Hall and as they did students who blocked doors dispersed, Hanson said.

Several snowballs were thrown at police and students shouted

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obscenities at them and taunted them with cries of "pig" and "oink."

Police response was restrained.

"SO FAR AS I know, no one was hit or hurt," said University Vice-Pres. Robert Taylor. "There was no resistance to the police."

Hanson noted that police "hit Education, Law, Bascom Hall, Social Sciences and Van Vleck" on their sweep through the campus. "Each was significantly blocked," he said he learned after reconnoitering the area just before police were called.

Hanson said he "shared the decision to call in the police

with (Inspector Herman Thomas and the chancellor. We got numerous complaints."

EARLIER, the student strikers backing 13 demands by black students decided to change their tactics over those employed Monday when orderly but noisy picketing took place outside of buildings.

A black student announced that there would be no softening of demands. "We're going to continue until our demands are met," he added.

He told his listeners in Great Hall that the plans called for students to go into classrooms "and make a little noise." After lunch, he said, the plan would be to set up "non-penetrable" picket lines "and nobody will go through them. When the man (police) comes, make like steam — vaporize.

"We don't want confrontation with the p-o-l-i-c-e," he declared.

"YOU SAY you don't want confrontation, but you're forcing it by disrupting classes," protested a white co-ed. She called for discussion of the move, and after debate, a black student announced, "All right, you win."

"For those of you not tired of playing games with the administration, the lines will not be non-penetrable. Since there seems to be a big split, for those of you who want to picket, go

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ahead. For those who want to disrupt, fill in the blank," the black student added.

STUDENTS THEN moved up the hill to the Social Sciences Building where they crowded about and chanted "On Strike, Shut It Down" in the hallways. Hanson arrived, and there was momentary quiet.

Then the shouting began again. Just as the bell for 11 a.m. classes sounded Hanson moved through the crowd with a bullhorn.

"In the name of the State of Wisconsin, I'm asking everyone to disburse," he said. "Those who stay will be arrested. You have 15 minutes to leave."

As students left the building for Van Hise Hall, two busloads of police pulled up Linden Dr. to Observatory Dr. There the buses stopped, and a student raised the hood of one.

Thomas lowered it, and police leaped from the bus as students taunted them and converged on a station wagon that carried the sheriff department's police dog. The students recoiled as police emerged from the bus, but then continued their jeering.

STUDENTS AND police faced each other in what could have been a repeat of the Oct. 18, 1967, Dow Chemical Co. riot here. But police moved back along Observatory Dr., then boarded buses and left the area without incident.

Hanson tried unsuccessfully to establish a dialog with some shouting students in Van Hise Hall and asked them to "Come with me and I'll buy you a beer in the Rathskeller. We'll charge it to the chancellor." The students declined.

AT AN AFTERNOON rally, it was decided the 1,500 or so students should divide into three groups and prevent people from entering, but not leaving, buildings.

Dean for Public Service LeRoy Luberg tried to enter Bascom, was prevented from doing so, but came in through another door. Two UW football players joined other students to form a flying wedge to gain entrance to Bascom.

FIST FIGHTS erupted as demonstrators tried to prevent students from entering build-

ings. Harvey Breuscher, director of news and publications, said Bascom was cleared because "We reached a point where there was a real and present fire danger."

Taylor said attendance at classes in the morning was about 90 per cent or more. Hanson noted that there had been many complaints about disruptions during the afternoon.

Hanson maintained that the strike is not successful because of the "infinitesimal number" of the 34,000 students on the campus involved.