

Protests Rattle Legislature

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(Of The State Journal Staff)

State officials reacted quickly and angrily to student demonstrations on the University of Wisconsin campus, and more action is expected when lawmakers return to the State Capitol Tuesday.

One of the first orders of business in the State Senate will be the establishment of a special investigating committee to look into all phases of the demonstrations.

THE COMMITTEE will be made up of assemblymen and senators from both political parties. Sen. Reuben LaFave (R-Oconto), who is forming the committee, said a report to the Legislature should be completed by April.

Senate Republicans have called members of the University and State Universities boards of regents on the carpet to discuss the University protests.

Regent Charles D. Gelatt, LaCrosse, and five recent regent appointees are scheduled for Senate GOP questioning Tuesday. The Senate has held up confirmation of the five appointees until after the meeting.

The Assembly took a somewhat softer position on the demonstrations, putting itself on

record pledging support of University "administration actions designed to prevent the outbreak of campus violence."

THE PROPOSAL was considered a leadership effort to thwart possible moves by other lawmakers to push through legislation condemning the University and attacking its administration.

However, the senators were not inclined toward moderation.

"Revolutionaries only respect one thing, and that is force," said Majority Leader Ernest Keppler (R-Sheboygan). He was supported by his GOP caucus and by most of the minority Democrats.

The Senate pulled from committee and passed without a public hearing a bill which would withdraw all state aid and support from students convicted of crimes on campus involving force or who use force or violence in breaking school rules.

MEANWHILE, AIDES to Gov. Warren P. Knowles, who called units of the Wisconsin National Guard to the University campus for the first time in history, began drafting legislation aimed at ridding the campus of disruptors.

Knowles' proposals would require the expulsion for one year

of students convicted of crimes arising out of a campus disturbance and ban such students from all state campuses unless they have specific permission of campus officials.

The governor also wants laws calling for the dismissal of faculty members convicted of offenses as a result of campus disturbances and the prohibition of loudspeaker systems on campuses without official permission.

"VIOLENCE IN THE name of dissent cannot be allowed, and its continuance is contrary to the nature of academic freedom," Knowles said. "If continued, it could destroy that freedom."

As the lawmakers left Madison for the weekend, student demonstrators were vowing to continue their protests until several demands by black students are met by the University administration.

University Chancellor H. Edwin Young has said some of the demands are unacceptable.

As the demonstrating continued, more than 75 Guardsmen took up positions in the State Capitol.

If the lawmakers return to find the Capitol ringed with armed troops, it is unlikely their tempers will subside.