

No Way to Have Averted UW Campus Row, Gelatt Declares

APR 30 1969

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(Of The State Journal Staff)

The president of the University of Wisconsin's Board of Regents said Tuesday night he knew of no way to have prevented the February disturbances on the Madison campus.

Regent Pres. Charles Gelatt of La Crosse said, "I don't know what steps one could have taken that would have prevented disruption without also exacting a serious degradation of the academic program."

Gelatt spoke before the Joint Legislative Committee investigating the disturbances on campus.

HE CONTINUED: "What the administration did in February was a great improvement from what it did in October of 1967."

Gelatt was referring to protests then surrounding the appearance on campus of recruiters from the Dow Chemical Corp. in which several persons were injured.

"There is a fine line between legitimate dissent and disruption as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court," Gelatt said. The first two days of protests in February were legal dissent, he said. And later disruptions were run on a hit and miss pattern that made it difficult for police to apprehend the guilty parties.

GELATT PRAISED the actions of the administration, police, and the National Guard, called in to help with the dis-



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turbance. "There was no damage to speak of, there were no injuries, and there was not much real disruption of classes."

GELATT SAID he felt an independent agency should be set up to hear student disciplinary cases. He said faculty members, because of their profession, are oriented toward the welfare of the student.

"We must have an independent agency that is professionally oriented," with a judge or attorney presiding over campus hearings on disciplinary steps against students, Gelatt said.

He also said he felt the University should not have its own police force, but added he was a "minority of one" on the Board of Regents who holds that view.

HE SAID he supported in principle some of the 13 demands made by black students which led to the demonstrations, although he said he did not hold with the premise that they were non-negotiable.

A black cultural center might have merit, he said, but amnesty

for students arrested in the demonstrations was out of the question, as was the demand to admit blacks expelled for disruptions at Oshkosh State University.

Gelatt listed three reasons for the rise in campus unrest:

ONE. The traditional struggle between "town and gown" caused by the idealism and energy of youth. "I don't know if this could or should be cured," he said.

TWO. Recent Supreme Court rulings requiring due process of law in student discipline cases, and broadened freedom of speech.

THREE. The two issues of the Vietnam War and the problems of the black people, particularly as they relate to the idealism of youth. "I regret the war and I feel for the blacks, but I do not feel that the tactics of the youth will help to solve either of those problems," he said.

Gelatt, in response to a question, said he did not feel that moving the authority of the University from its traditional place with the faculty to the Board of Regents would be of service to the school.

HE SAID he had been taking some graduate courses and sensed less student attempts to challenge authority now than he saw two years ago.

Legislators then questioned Gelatt as to a possible conflict of interest of his attending the institution he was charged with governing. He said he had a verbal opinion from the attorney general that this would not be in conflict. He added that he would not try to obtain an advanced degree while a member of the Board of Regents.

He also called the "Black Revolution Symposium" on campus the week before the disturbances "a regrettable incident."

The legislators said they would call Gelatt back again in two or three weeks. Chancellor Edwin Young, will appear before the committee at 7:30 tonight and Pres. Fred Harvey Harrington will appear next week.