

Good Year For Button Salesman

BERKELEY, Calif. (CUP-CPS) — Contrary to the prophecies of Richard Nixon, widespread demonstrations broke out at U.S. college campuses this September as the States braced for what could be a very tumultuous year.

In Ann Arbor Mich., more than 1,500 students turned back police who came to evict 200 occupiers of the Literature, Science and Art Building at the University of Michigan. But after 14 hours of demands that students and faculty be given charge of a proposed university bookstore, more than 400 police reinforcements from the state highway patrol broke through the crowd.

More than 25 demonstrators were injured — one girl, seriously — and 123 students were arrested.

At Madison, Wis., more than 2,000 protestors led by radical Catholic priest James Groppi took over the state legislature September 29, demanding higher welfare payments for the unemployed. The crowd burst through locked assembly doors and crowded the assembly chambers.

Governor Warren Knowles activated 1,000 national guardsmen and after conferences with the state attorney general, Father Groppi pulled his forces out.

And in Los Angeles, the UCLA campus was tense for a while as the regents of the eight-campus University of California fired black philosophy professor Angela Davis, after she admitted being a member of the American Communist Party. Miss Davis quieted militant students, however, announcing she would take the matter to the courts.

But the demonstrations lack any substance: at Ann Arbor, students have been demanding a university-subsidized bookstore for many years to counter the high prices from commercial establishments.

Father Groppi had begun a march with 40 people from Milwaukee, 90 miles away to emphasize their demands. As they gathered in the library mall on the University of Wisconsin campus, students wandered out and soon the crowd was 2,000-strong. The march gained momentum and Father Groppi piously screamed, "So, let's take it!" And they did.

But there was question as to whether the students knew what they were taking, and why they were taking it.

Only the UCLA campus has a viable issue: whether political beliefs should prohibit professors from teaching. Miss Davis contends her firing is based on racial prejudice, but this seems simply an histrionic gesture to infuriate conservative regents.

The regents fired Miss Davis after the longest secret executive session held since they decided to fire Clark Kerr, the mastermind of mass education, back in 1966. Governor Ronald Reagan openly called for her dismissal in several recent public speeches

after she announced to the press she was a member of the CP.

Reagan is a member of the board of regents; the other members are elected or appointed by the governor.

The action confused many political observers for two reasons: first, the same thing happened last year when Reagan, who also sits as a trustee on the board of California's State College, engineered the firing of Black Panther George Murray.

Murray, in an amazingly parallel situation, avowed his political beliefs and was fired. The Black Students Union began demonstrations, tearing up the student newspaper offices and roughing up several professors. The faculty eventually called for a strike and before the year ended classes had been closed down for six weeks, 236 people were seriously injured and more than 300 arrests were made.

Few doubted that this would occur at UCLA if Miss Davis' firing was upheld.

Secondly, at their last previous meeting, the regents passed a resolution, sponsored by Reagan, declaring faculty political beliefs would have nothing to do with their tenure potential.

Reagan now poo-poo's this, claiming American CP members are subversive. They are "communists with a Big C" he explains; communists with a little "C" are simply philosophical. But Big "C" communists "obviously have allegiance to another country and therefore are dangerous and not qualified to teach on our campuses."

Miss Davis is really confusing the issue by insisting her firing was on racial grounds. Such an assumption is absurd, and frightening.

There is little doubt the courts will enjoin the university from firing her, ruling the by-law the regents acted under is unconstitutional. The by-law, passed in 1940 and strengthened in 1950, is a result of the McCarthy red-baiting era and has been invoked only twice before.

But the Davis scene is a good indication of the growing conservatism and fear of communist takeover across the country.

The new president of Columbia University went before a McClellan subversives sub-committee this summer and read into the record the names of everyone arrested at Columbia during the last year, because "this is obviously a national plot to overthrow the government."

McClellan smiled and invited several other big university presidents to do the same: Harvard, Michigan, Stanford and Berkeley among them.

It would be a lengthy list: more than 500 arrests have been made on those campuses alone last year.

San Francisco State president S. I. Hayakawa, who will undoubtedly run for either senator or governor

before the year is out, has railroaded through a student government with designs for "ousting subversives." The government, which is banned to all activists, supports Hayakawa and approved suspensions for anyone ever arrested and anyone else he wants to prohibit.

The student newspaper, last vestige of opposition to Hayakawa, has been banned by the government, though it still publishes off-campus. Hayakawa had the student government election — which was worse than any Mayor Dailey ever manipulated in Chicago — sanctioned by the San Francisco federal courts.

And then there is the Judge J. J. Hoffman conspiracy trial in Chicago. It is masqueraded justice and quite tunny to observe. Yippie leader Abbie Hoffman is rumored the director of the "Living Theatre" the courtroom will undoubtedly turn into.

But all humor aside, the malicious intent of the jurisprudence in Chicago is obvious and has definite fascistic overtones. It could most easily be compared to the purge trials of several communist nations this government seems so to fear.

And the American student movement isn't moving. It seems only a visible manifestation of frustration that at the most has managed to create a new lifestyle of the hippy genre.

Passing through Sproul Plaza on the infamous Berkeley campus one meets a Kentucky evangelist claiming that unless you embrace J. Christ you will die in a car accident. Further on, members of the Weatherman faction of Students for a Democratic Society pass out — well, force out — literature.

The Scientology Forever, Inc. Student Group marches in Buddha-like draperies and haircuts each day, singing Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna.

And the only one who seems to benefit from this is the official Sproul Plaza button salesman (700 buttons: if you don't see yours, ask for it).

I could just, C.U.S.

Technically Dalhousie is still a member of the Canadian Union of Students, but at least one Dalhousie student has discovered that Dalhousie students cannot participate in at least one CUS service, CUS-sponsored flights.

Bob Garret, a Dalhousie student, wrote to the CUS travel bureau for information on the CUS-sponsored flight to London at Christmas and received the following reply:

Dear Mr. Garret,

We are very sorry, but as Dalhousie University is no longer a member of CUS, you are not eligible for our Christmas flight to London.

Canadian Union of Students

While Dalhousie sent delegates to the national CUS conference held in Sudbury they did not choose to sign the CUS commitment paper at

the conference since a referendum on continued CUS membership was planned for the fall.

This means CUS has no guarantee of a financial commitment from Dalhousie's student council.

As a result, according to student union vice-president Derryn Crowston, "we are technically members of CUS in that we have not formally withdrawn from the union. However our students are not entitled to use the union's services because we have not signed the commitment paper or paid any fees."

Student Union president Bruce Gillis does not feel that at the moment Dalhousie is even technically a member of CUS because if we aren't eligible to participate in any of its services we aren't members."

Dalhousie students will be voting on whether or not to remain in CUS October 22 and 23.

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