

Shannon Phones Byrd, Appeals War Views

By Alan Featherstone
Cavalier Daily Staff Writer

Speaking to a crowd of students in front of Alderman Library yesterday, Edgar F. Shannon announced that he had spoken with U.S. Senators Harry Byrd and William Spong of Virginia and had arranged for a group of student leaders to meet with them on Monday to discuss "matters of urgent importance to our nation and its young people."

Mr. Shannon spoke only a short while about major student concerns, namely the "tragic war in Southeast Asia," and other "aspects of violence in our society." He read aloud the letters he is sending to the Virginia senators to confirm the action he has taken.

Letter Reads

The letters read in part, "...I agree with our students that underlying much of the present student disaffection is the war in Vietnam and the recent decision to send American forces into Cambodia.

"I am deeply disturbed over the continued alienation of our young men and women owing largely to our nation's military involvement in Southeast Asia.

"It is my firm conviction that student views and questions on this matter need to be heard

by those in a position to influence and shape national policy. Likewise, I feel it important that our students have an opportunity to learn more about this complex matter directly from those in positions of national leadership."

His remarks completed, Mr. Shannon left the speaker's platform and wound his way through the crowd of 2000 students; some applauding, some shouting, some booing, and some throwing marshmallows. Several students shouted appeals concerning the demands to Mr. Shannon as he left, hoping for a response to them.

Harbaugh Speaks

Speaking next was William H. Harbaugh, Professor of History, who spoke candidly about the actions Mr. Shannon had taken. He emphasized that the most immediate crisis in the U.S. today is the military action in Cambodia. He said that the "real gut issue" here today is the Cambodian crisis - not ROTC.

"ROTC is being debated in the faculty now," he said. "You know that the faculty and the University are acting on that issue. But ROTC can wait a month, Cambodia can't."

* Mr. Harbaugh explained the "narrow limits" within which the President of this University has to operate to affect any sort of acceptable change. "The Senate stands between us and the President of the United States." He said that going to the Senate was the best move to make and "that is what President Shannon has done."

Commenting on the student's demands, Mr. Harbaugh noted that one day is not enough time to act on the demands and that they are being considered.

When he said that hasty action on the demands would cause the faculty to revolt, one student shouted, "They will, we are."

Charles Whitebread, Assistant Professor of Law, spoke about the court injunction issued Tuesday morning saying that it can't be withdrawn. He also noted that it would be near impossible to enforce.

Whitebread Speaks

Mr. Whitebread appealed to the students not to get "bogged down" on local issues and to join the national cause and emphasize Cambodia. "Escalation of this war is insanity," he said. Cambodia is the issue.

Commenting generally on the student strike, Mr. Whitebread stated that the students all across the nation are seeking to set forth the best principles this society has to offer. He defended Mr. Shannon's actions saying that he has helped in this effort and not detracted from it. He further noted that this task and these issues are being supported by all of us.

Following Mr. Whitebread's speech the students began the march to University Hall to hear Attorney William Kunstler and Jerry Rubin speak.



Photograph By Larry Marks

University President Edgar F. Shannon, Jr. Gives His Reply To Nine Student Demands