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Shannon Urges Prompt Action To End War

Today To Decide Strike Issues

Before a crowd of about 4,000 gathered on the Lawn President Shannon called for prompt action to end the war, and urged that the national administration "demonstrate determination to end the unprecedented alienation of youth."

The president also reaffirmed his decision to keep the University open, but urged that the faculty make provisions to accommodate those students who would rather spend their time participating in constructive activities, presumably activities concerned with ending the war.

The president was continually interrupted with boos and hisses from the crowd during the first half hour of his 45 minute speech, as he reviewed the disturbances of the past week and referred to the crowds of students who marched on Carr's Hill, took over Maury Hall, and confronted police on Thursday and Friday night as "mobs."

Mr. Shannon was loudly applauded during the last part of his address which contained his remarks about the war, the alienation of youth, and the letter which he drafted to be sent to Virginia senators Harry Byrd and William Spong. The letter urges the Senate to assert its authority over the president, an indirect denunciation of the president's foreign policy, and also condemns the verbal attacks against colleges and students made by the Washington administration.

In writing the last part of his speech, the president was aided by law professor Charles Whitebread, who spoke at the rally on Wednesday, and who tried to calm students after Mr. Shannon's address to students at Alderman Library on Wednesday night.

Beginning a half an hour late to allow people to arrive on the Lawn, Mr. Shannon appealed for help in the "upcoming days," and urged that "love can be the bond to bring us together."

"As far as I know, the University is the only major university on the East Coast that is open," and in reference to this, Mr. Shannon praised the student strike as one not dominated by force or coercion. Stating that he feels that it is the desire of both the students and the faculty to keep the University open, Mr. Shannon furthermore pointed out that "the open opportunity will continue."

In reshaping the activities of the last week, he stated that "no harassment has ever been in the history of this University" and the court injunction issued Monday night was used as the most non-violent method of removing students from the "liberated" ROTC building.

In reference to the injunction, Mr. Shannon remarked that it does not inhibit peaceful demonstrations, such as the one taking place throughout his speech, but it can be used to protect the life, limb, or property of everyone during an unlawful gathering of students - which is the grouping of two or more people.

Remarking on the activities of the past Wednesday night, the President offered this as an example of the willingness of the University to allow the continuation of the freedom of speech, even in "an absolutely dangerous and frightening situation."

Mr. Shannon told the sweating crowd that on Friday afternoon the state police and local authorities asked that he turn over all authority to them but he refused. He related that later he was not on the scene and allowed the police captain to take authority to insure order on the Grounds.

"The police acted to a degree I did not expect, and hope to avoid in the future," he said referring to the invasion of the Lawn, dormitories and fraternity houses Friday night by charging state police and local police.

He referred to the gathering of students Friday night as constituting a "riot, or near-riot situation," and was promptly booed and hissed by the crowd.

Mr. Shannon said that he had studied the nine demands and would continue to study them, but that he felt this wasn't the time for him to make a decision, because it might influence voting in today's referendum. In his speech he did say he favored increasing the enrollment of women and blacks.

The referendum will be voted on today by students to assess student opinion on the strike and the nine demands.

that the chairmen of the University departments would meet today to decide a policy. The feeling expressed informally by many faculty members and administrators is that students who continue to strike will not be penalized, and that there will be many options open.

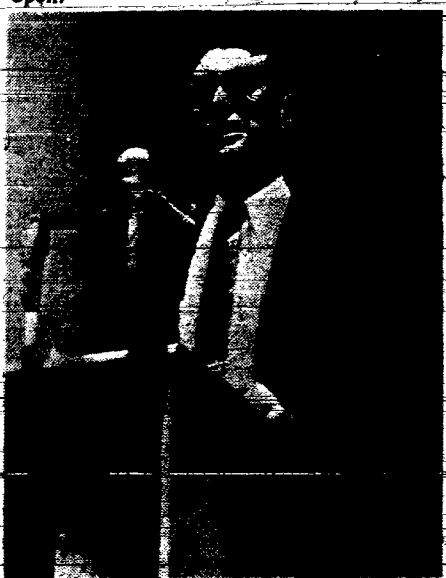


Photo By Howard Weinberg
Edgar F. Shannon, Jr.

Addresses Gathering On Week's Events

The Statement

10 May 1970

To Senators Byrd and Spong:
We, the undersigned, students and faculty members of the University of Virginia, are gravely concerned by many evidences of anti-intellectualism and growing militarism in the national government of the United States.

Education has been increasingly neglected. Verbal attacks upon universities, students, and the free press by persons in the highest levels of the government have become commonplace. The unspeakable tragedy at Kent State was received in terms that appeared challenging and callous. The promised disengagement in Southeast Asia has been agonizingly slow. The recent announcement of the invasion of Cambodia - a critical decision vitally affecting the lives and futures of all our young men - was used to reflect personal and political credit upon the President. It has now become clear that the decision was reached without the advice and consent of either the Secretary of State or any committee of the Senate of the United States.

We therefore urge you to join with your fellow Senators in reasserting the authority of the Senate over the foreign policy of the United States and the use of the armed forces in its support.

Edgar F. Shannon, Jr.

Polling Places

- Tuttle P.O.
- Emmet P.O.
- Pavilions I & II
- The Corner
- Newcomb Grill
- 2d floor Newcomb
- Library main entrance
- McKim
- Mary Munford
- Beta Bridge

OUTSIDE the following buildings:

- Thornton & A&M
- Madison Hall
- Architecture School
- Med School
- Law School
- Grad. Business
- Cabell 1st street entrance
- Cabell 4-west & 4-east entrances
- Gilmer, New Chem, & Physics bldgs.

To vote a student will have to show his student ID card, or sign a written statement to insure that only University students vote in the referendum.

the faculty will take regarding students who wish to participate in "constructive activities" and not go to classes, but he did urge the faculty to permit students to delay their requirements in courses.

Yesterday, faculty dean David Shannon said