

Reagan Closes Campus System in Face of Disorders



Associated Press

CLOSES CAMPUSES: Gov. Ronald Reagan of California after ordering state universities and colleges closed.

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SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 6—Gov. Ronald Reagan ordered today that all 28 University of California and state college campuses be closed for four days in the face of spreading disorders over the killing of four Kent State college students in Ohio and American involvement in Cambodia.

In a 15-minute televised broadcast last night, Mr. Reagan disclosed that he had also asked private colleges and universities and the state's 92 locally controlled two-year community colleges to suspend their classes during the same period.

His press office said the closing of the campuses had the strong backing of the University of California president, Charles Hitch, and of the state colleges' chancellor, Glenn Dumke. The campuses will be closed

from tomorrow through Sunday. Nineteen colleges and nine university campuses attended by a total of 280,000 students are affected.

Mr. Reagan took his action after violence erupted yesterday and today on several University of California campuses, including those at Berkeley and Los Angeles. Almost all campuses have had demonstrations of one kind or another. The Governor's action was something of a surprise.

It was announced at the Berkeley campus by a student, Dan Segal, at a convocation this morning.

One U.C. official said the announcement "left everybody wondering what the hell was going on."

Berkeley Peaceful

For the moment, at least, the Berkeley campus was relatively peaceful today after yesterday's disorders, about

12,000 persons attended the convocation this morning.

Mr. Hitch later issued his own statement urging students to return to their homes if possible and to go back to their classes on Monday.

A skeleton force of university employees and hospital maintenance will remain on duty on the campuses until next week.

In his six-paragraph announcement, Governor Reagan declared:

"It is essential for our college and university faculty, students and administrators to reflect on the grave sequence of current events and to consider the responsibilities to themselves and to our society.

"In order to provide them this opportunity, away from the highly emotional conditions now prevailing on most campuses, I have today asked President Hitch and Chancellor Dumke to close the univer-

sity and state college campuses for two days [and] over the weekend.

"President Hitch and Chancellor Dumke strongly concurred in my recommendation and accordingly have taken the necessary action for implementation.

"All campus facilities will be closed during this period.

"I hope that this period will allow time for rational reflection away from the emotional turmoil and encourage all to disavow violence and mob action.

"I requested California radio and television broadcasters to make time available to me this evening in order that I may have all Californians report on this situation."

Students at various campuses already had indicated plans to continue protests for the rest of the week. At Sacramento State College students voted to strike tomorrow and Friday.