

LBJ on Texas U Campus: A Wild Anti-War Melee

By RALPH BLUMENFELD

President Johnson was back in the White House today after being booed by anti-war demonstrators on his home grounds—the University of Texas campus.

State troopers arrested two 20-year-old students when a wild melee broke out between police and 200 demonstrators outside the gymnasium of the university in Austin last night.

One of the youths tried to throw a pop bottle at the Presidential limousine, police said. Several witnesses denied it.

Johnson was leaving the building by a rear door at the time. He had dropped in unannounced—through a side door as the demonstrators milled out front—for a testimonial dinner honoring Texas Gov. Connally on his 51st birthday.

"I want to thank you all for the very special welcoming committee outside," Johnson told the 600 dinner guests in passing reference to the protesters—some in hippie garb.

"I was looking at all those well-dressed demonstrators and I knew I was at the right place," the President said jovially.

One arrested youth said his father is an Air Force officer stationed near San Antonio. He said his placard reading "Wrong Time, Wrong Place, - Wrong War," had bumped a state trooper by accident. Police said they might charge the youth with assaulting an officer.

The other youth said he had inadvertently "yelled an obscenity" when a trooper shoved his friend. Both youths described themselves as University of Texas students.

The campus chapter of the Committee to End the War in Vietnam apparently organized the demonstration without knowing Johnson would be at the dinner.

Guests in dinner jackets and evening gowns were forced to walk through two lines of pickets at the gym's front entrance. When they heard Johnson was inside, about 40 demonstrators rushed to the rear of the gym to await his exit.

The President spoke senti-



Associated Press Wirephoto
President Johnson greets Texas Gov. Connally at Connally's 51st birthday party.

mentally from a prepared text, calling Connally "almost a brother to me," and predict-

ing that the Governor's "greatest gifts to democratic government are still to come."

Earlier, Johnson stopped in Dallas for the first time since the Kennedy assassination 51 months ago—a sudden unannounced visit lasting only an hour. He addressed 8,000 conventioning electricians and his topic was Vietnam.

He said he had received a letter from historian Allan Nevins advising him not to be discouraged by the "croakers," or "complainers." He said Nevins wrote that "croakers" have existed since Revolutionary days but are "rarely successful."

Johnson said he believed every American would answer the challenge in Vietnam by saying:

"I stood up to be counted. I stood fast beside my brothers and sons who went away to fight for me. I stood firm with my government to fight for the way of life we hold so dear."



Sandra Wilson, a wounded survivor of sniper Charles Whitman's attack from University of Texas tower 18 months ago, pleads for release of a friend (R) arrested during demonstration against President Johnson on the Austin campus.

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