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N.Y.U. Law School Is Focusing On Unifying Nationwide Protest

By LACEY FOSBURGH

New York University Law School became a focal point yesterday for a coordinated national effort to mobilize student and faculty protests against the expanding war in Southeast Asia.

While persons at the Washington Square school worked all day on plans for a mass lobbying campaign scheduled to begin today in Washington, Robert B. McKay, dean of the school, sent telegrams to the deans of 150 law schools all over the country.

He described the N.Y.U. school's active position against the war.

Because of the "extraordinary provocation" of President Nixon's "escalation of the war," he said, the Law School decided to cancel all examinations and classes to allow unified action to oppose the war.

The "unusual nature" of the widespread concern among students and professors, he said, indicated that law schools should share information.

While his telegram fell short of explicitly recommending that other deans follow his example, Dean McKay invited them to meet with him Monday at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington to discuss common educational problems that might arise from cancellation of classes and examinations.

Examinations Set Later

Dean McKay explained in his telegram to the deans that arrangements were being made to allow students to take final examinations in late summer or early fall to avoid marring their educational record because of their antiwar activities.

By late yesterday afternoon, thousands of law students and professors from all over the country were converging on Washington and going to a headquarters set up at George Washington University. They worked throughout the evening on the lobbying effort, which

is to include meetings and discussions with virtually every member of Congress.

The student leaders of 12 Northeastern law schools met Tuesday night in the N.Y.U. Law School's Vanderbilt Hall to arrange these activities. Other schools in the South and throughout the West have subsequently been drawn into the plans.

"We've been generally against the Vietnam war for a long time, but this Cambodian invasion was the catalyst that triggered out mass movement," explained one of the leaders, Stuart Bochner, a second-year student at N.Y.U.

Records Studied

As he spoke, dozens of other students were in the third-floor law library studying the Congressional Record and Congressional voting tallies. They were preparing a precise argument for each Congressman that, on the basis of his past voting record, might persuade him to oppose the war.

"I don't consider myself a crusader," Mr. Bochner said, "but I'm making my stand against the war. This is my way of trying to make it end."

James A. Hester, president of N.Y.U., strongly supported the Law School's "total commitment" to the antiwar action. In an interview yesterday, he said it was "inappropriate" for any college or university to "function as usual when national problems of the current magnitude are facing the country."

Adding that he was personally very disillusioned and disheartened by Mr. Nixon's "insensitive" actions, he said that he had never witnessed such extraordinary concern among students over an issue.

On Monday Mr. Hester, who is chairman of the President's Commission on Higher Education sent a telegram to Mr. Nixon signed by 48 college and university presidents, deploring the Asian war.