



POLICE STAND BY AS STUDENT GROUP HOLDS RALLY AT SUNO

—States-Item photo by James Guillot.

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# 300 Stop, Look At SUNO Rally

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By ALLAN KATZ

A quiet crowd of about 300 students today listened to speakers on the Southern University in New Orleans campus, but displayed little reaction that might have indicated how they feel about the current state of affairs at the troubled school.

But the students made no move to return to class.

Of the school's 2,700 enrollment, few students appeared to be on the campus beyond those who gathered in front of a platform from which a succession of speakers exhorted them to keep the faith with the students boycott and the black movement that has sparked the student dissent.

The students did not even applaud after a fiery speech by Earl Picard until they were urged to do so by a West Coast spokesman for the Congress of African People.

**TWO SPEAKERS**, one identified as being from the West Coast and one identified as being from the East Coast,

both affiliated with the Congress of African People, had more success with the crowd.

Both were introduced by their African names. However, reporters did not get the

correct spelling of the names.

The first burst of enthusiasm came from the crowd when the West Coast representative of the African group poked fun at Gov. Edwin W. Edwards.

The speaker, who said he originally was from New Orleans and had attended "jive 35," apparently a reference to McDonogh 35 High School, added that his given name had been Fontenot. He said first he agreed with Gov. Edwards, who appealed to the students not to become violent.

"WHILE I agree that we should be not violent, it is audacious for a white man to

tell black students to be non-violent," the speaker said as the students' interest visibly quickened.

"This man who is telling us to be non-violent is the same one who has killed off the American Indians, gone to Africa to enslave all the black people and gone to Vietnam to kill yellow people in the name of fighting communism."

At that point, the students cheered and laughed as the speaker used Edwards as a symbol of the alleged persecutions for which he blamed whites.

"Don't be fooled by the whites who say they are the black man's friend," the speaker continued. "Gov. (George) Wallace was right when he said the integration movement was a fraud—that it was just Northern whites coming here to sleep with Southern blacks," he said as the students whistled and clapped.

"Black people have to go their own way and fight for their own independence," he said.

**APART FROM** the response to those and similar remarks, the students remained quiet and seemed somewhat uncertain on their next step.

A number of students joined or drifted away from the crowd as the morning progressed.

An increased number of New Orleans police, all in plain clothes, were in evidence on the fringes of the campus as the rally continued.

However, as throughout the SUNO crisis, the police made no effort to come into contact with the students or harass them.