

Strife-Torn La. Campus Is Closed Until Jan. 3

22 (UPI)—The Louisiana Board of Education today ordered strife-torn Southern University closed until Jan. 3 at the request of Dr. J. Leon Netterville, the school's president.

Gov. Edwin Edwards complied with the request, but lifted a state of emergency ordered last Thursday during campus violence which left two black students dead.

Netterville, in a letter to the education board and Edwards, cited seven reasons for the closing of the predominantly black university's Baton Rouge campus, including uncertainty "as to the readiness of students to return and resume their activities."

In a news conference, Edwards disclosed Netterville's request and the board's vote and said he planned to keep armed police on the campus on an "hour-to-hour, day-to-day basis."

The governor's news conference was held a few hours after funeral services for one of the slain students, Leonard Brown Jr., 20, of Gilbert, La.

Netterville requested the university be closed because of:

- Extensive repairs to damaged buildings.
- "The degree of tension within the Baton Rouge community and the State of Louisiana.
- "Financial hardships incurred by parents because of the university's having to close twice within a short period.
- "Uncertainty as to the readiness of students to return and resume their activities.
- "The time needed for completion of official investigations.
- "The time needed to re-

construct academic records of students that were damaged or destroyed by fire.

- "To permit time for instructional faculty to make time for class time lost."

The Southern campus was closed last Thursday after a student demonstration at the university administration building developed into a tear-gas battle between students and sheriff's deputies.

The violence left Brown and Denver A. Smith, 20, dead of shotgun pellets. Authorities have denied that the blasts came from deputies' guns.

A 12-member panel was assembled this week to investigate the incident and report to the governor and the public. The commission has said that it will operate in secrecy and will begin hearing witnesses Monday.