

Edwards: No SUNO Deal

Students and faculty members at troubled Southern University in New Orleans huddled today in the wake of recommendation by Gov. Edwin W. Edwards that the resignation of SUNO dean Emmett W. Bashful be rejected by the state Board of Education.

It was the resignation of Bashful a week ago today that opened the way for a group of 150 dissident students to clear the SUNO administration building they had held nine days.

At the same time he recommended Bashful be kept on at SUNO, Edwards admitted his peace efforts to return the SUNO campus to normal have failed.

"I'm awfully sorry," Edwards said. "I can truthfully say I bent over backwards. It appears the students are not ready to discuss this"—apparently referring to a peaceful settlement of problems at SUNO.

EDWARDS SAID he has alerted city and state police and Louisiana National Guardsmen to stand by to put down any disturbance of the type which

has rocked the two predominantly black institutions.

Edwards told the board he also is suspending operations of his 23-member blue ribbon panel which he created to look into student disturbances at the two campuses in New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

Further, Edwards told the board, if students don't settle down and return to classes at once, he will seek another meeting of the board after the first of the year "to discuss the future use of buildings on the two campuses."

Spectators packing the board's hearing room applauded the governor as he completed his statement.

The governor said he never had suggested the resignation of Bashful and under the circumstances it should not be accepted.

"IT IS A situation where we apparently are unable to communicate," he said.

Bashful and Leon Netterville, the

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president of the Southern system, were in the audience listening to Edwards.

In his comments, Edwards noted his personal meeting with students on the New Orleans campus Sunday to discuss their boycott of classes and other moves, including their earlier takeover of campus buildings on the New Orleans campus.

He said he told them a continued boycott would make it impossible to discuss constructive changes.

The students, he said, insisted that classes could not be resumed until demands were met.

"EVENTS WHICH have transpired since that Sunday meeting convinced me that the students have no intention of returning to classes and allowing for

orderly consideration of their grievances," Edwards said.

He said he is willing to reinstate the 23-member committee should students decide to discuss their complaints. But he said, until then "its further efforts would be useless, fruitless and not in the public interest."

The trouble at SUNO began Oct. 27 when students presented a list of grievances and began to boycott classes.

The situation worsened Nov. 1 when about 150 students seized the administration building and did not surrender it until last Thursday after Dr. Bashful resigned.

Led by Student Government Association president Earl Picard, the students have vowed to continue their boycott of classes until their demands are met.