

Student Denies Takeover Plan

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BATON ROUGE—A black woman student who was among a group in the president's office when a confrontation with police erupted at Southern University said today the group was waiting in the office at the request of the president.

Pricilla Clues, senior student from Arnaudville, said about 10 Southern students sought the audience with Dr. G. Leon Netterville early yesterday morning because they were concerned about the arrest earlier of four other students.

She said Netterville told them he would try to get the students out of jail because they were supposed to attend a meeting of the state Board of Education with him.

She said that when Netterville left the administration building he told them to wait there until he returned.

"He didn't come back," she said. "Instead, about an hour and 10 minutes later the police came."

MISS CLUES maintained there was no intent on the part of the group to take over the administration building. She said that although up to 40 students later crowded into the president's office, they did not consider it a takeover.

A black faculty member said that efforts to reach an employe of the controller's office located in the administration building were twice rebuffed by students who said the employes had been put out of the building.

Miss Clues said students are upset over the turn of events but are unlikely to return to class unless Dr. Netterville resigns his post or gives a public declaration of his intent to retire soon.

She said students feel the police overreacted to the situation when the exchange of tear gas canisters began.

Gov. Edwin Edwards said television films of the incident outside the building indicate the first missiles came from the direction of the students.

After Dr. Netterville left, Miss Clues said other students came to the office to tell the 10 inside that the president

had left under escort of campus security guards.

SHE SAID word spread around the campus that students had taken over the building, but she denied this. She said that there was a sign on the controller's office saying "temporarily closed," but that other clerical workers continued at their jobs on the second floor of the building. She said her group was not aware if other students had occupied the building.

Occupation of the administration building brought an order from Sheriff Al Amiss of East Baton Rouge to vacate the premises after police lines formed in front.

Miss Clues said one of the two persons killed in the melee that followed the exchange of tear gas was a student. The other is still unidentified.

Shortly after police arrived tear gas was fired into the building, she said, but not into the president's office. At a lull, a campus security guard knocked on the door and advised the students inside if they would follow him out, police would desist in shooting.

"WE FOLLOWED him to the door," she said, "and the police shot another canister at us. They could see we were with campus security."

She said the police spotted a male student next to her who is president of the student organizations and shouted: "Get him, get him. That's him."

She said, "everybody started running back to the president's office. There were so many trying to get in there to get away from the tear gas, I ran on down the hall."

The campus security guard was trying to get police to stop firing as the students broke and ran, she said.

Many students were upset over statements that they took over the building, she said, because that was not their intention when the incident began.

She said that the organization called Students United represents the feeling of a majority of the students at the predominantly black institution. The school has an enrollment of some 9,000 on the Baton Rouge campus.