

# Pep Rally for Dissent

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## THE STATES-ITEM

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# SUNO SHUT

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By ANGUS LIND

Students at Southern University in New Orleans held a rally today instead of going to class and appeared determined to continue their boycott.

The rally was billed as a memorial service for two students killed Nov. 14 on the Baton Rouge campus of Southern. But it turned into more of a pep rally for a continuation of the SUNO boycott.

Classes had been scheduled to resume on the New Orleans campus today, with the Baton Rouge campus remaining closed until Jan. 3.

But student leaders vowed to continue the boycott, which was called Oct. 27, until the Baton Rouge campus reopens and their demands are met.

Several news photographers were pushed around while trying to take pictures of the rally, but there was no other violence. No city police were on the scene, although the campus security force had been beefed up.

MEANWHILE IN Baton Rouge, two separate investigations of the Nov. 14 violence were to begin. The official one is under the aegis of Atty. Gen. Wil-

liam J. Guste Jr. and conducted by a 12-person bi-racial committee he appointed. The other is by a coalition of blacks who say they have no confidence in the official probe.

Black leaders in the capital announced a march from Louisiana State University to the capitol steps, a distance of about five miles. The LSU campus is about 10 miles down-river from Southern.

The Guste probes were to meet this afternoon behind closed doors. State investigators have been rebuffed by some potential black witnesses who say they would rather testify before the black group.

The SUNO rally was held on the steps in front of a new classroom building south of the administration building which the students occupied for nine days several weeks ago.

THE SCUFFLE was between students and television crews plus Associated Press photographer Jack Thornell. The students apparently mistook Thornell for a policeman.

First speaker was an unidentified black student who said the struggle began a month ago today and has gained the support of the Black Legislative Caucus, Black Panthers, South-

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ern Christian Leadership Conference, Republic of New Africa and Youth Organization for Black Unity.

He said SUNO students, faculty and administration have reached an accord on their grievances, but are "still subjected to the racist state Board of Education in Baton Rouge."

The board has refused to accept the resignation of Dean Emmett Bashful, administrator of SUNO. The resignation is one of the key student demands.

**SECOND SPEAKER** identified himself as Brother Sababu, and said he was from the Baton Rouge campus. He said Gov. Edwin W. Edwards called in police in the Nov. 16 incident because "white folks had an image of him that he could not handle his niggers."

He said the governor is "naive" in trying to handle SUNO and SUBR separately. "He doesn't realize we are one people."

The boycott, he said, "may take another month . . . It's time out for white folks dictating what we're gonna learn."

Third speaker was Earl Picard, president of the Student Government Association at SUNO. He charged there is "a concerted effort to elimi-

nate colleges like SUNO."

He called on his fellow blacks to "quit worrying about graduating and worry about the university surviving."

Picard said the SUNO students came out of the administration building because of "minor concessions," none of which has been carried out.

**DURING SIMILAR** disturbances in 1969, Picard said, students "got the same promises from (Gov. John J.) McKeithen we are now getting from Edwards."

He said their downfall was in agreeing to return to classes while negotiating, and said the students today will not do that.

"We can't consider going back to class until our problems are solved both in Baton Rouge and here," said Picard.

He said he opposes any merger with Louisiana State University in New Orleans because "it would be very easy for us to turn into the technical and trade part of LSUNO."

Theme of all the speakers was that the SUNO boycott will continue until all demands are met and amounted to calls for unity. Edwards has said he believed the majority of SUNO's 2,747 students would prefer to attend classes.