

# Students Smoke Out Man From Justice

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SOUTH HADLEY, Mass., Oct. 20—The Justice Department's first effort to start a dialogue on college campuses went up in smoke at Mount Holyoke College.

A 90-minute exchange between Assistant Attorney General William Ruckelshaus and 1,200 students ended abruptly Monday night when several students in the front row turned on with marijuana.

Ruckelshaus didn't see the smokers himself, but he said that David Truman, Mount Holyoke president, told him to wind up the dialogue quickly.

"I didn't know until later about the pot smoking," said Ruckelshaus. "I suppose that if I had seen it, I would have had to decide whether or not to make a citizen's arrest."

The handful of pot smokers left Cahill Auditorium unmolested as the rest of the crowd filed out. They left behind a faint odor of burning rope.

Students who filled every seat at the women's college came from Mount Holyoke, Smith College, Hampshire College, Amherst College

and the University of Massachusetts.

It was the first of 53 campus appearances for Justice Department officials to improve communication with college students.

After last night's ordeal, which ran the gamut from raucous to boring, Ruckelshaus said he was not trying to win students over to Justice policies but to gain recognition that "what we are doing is a rational approach to complex problems."

But it was uphill all the way for Ruckelshaus in the question-and-answer session. He was greeted by hoots and cries of "bull" when he said major civil right leaders criticized Justice actions because "they don't understand our policies either."

He got the same response when he tried to explain the resignation of 19 civil rights division lawyers between January and June as "normal attrition."

Throughout the evening, and each time that the assistant attorney general answered a question, a woman student waved a large drawing of a hand with a finger raised in an obscene gesture and on which was inscribed, "F-- Ruck."

Most of the questions, signs and obscenities came from a small group of 25 to 50 students, who Mount Holyoke girls said came from Amherst and the University of Massachusetts. One group staged a mock trial of the Justice Department before Ruckelshaus appeared, with students rising in the audience to read "indictments." Another flew a Vietcong flag from the balcony.

But none of the questioners dealt with the Indochina war, although several ranged beyond Justice policies to address Ruckelshaus as a representative of the administration.

In his responses, Ruckelshaus said:

- The 1,000 additional FBI agents included in the new crime bill are not to be used as campus undercover agents; 750 will be assigned to organize crime task forces, 150 to skyjacking and 100 assigned across the country in field offices.

- The President cannot declare martial law nationally, as has been done in Canada, because of constitutional protections.

- There is no conspiracy to destroy the Black Panth

ers, a charge he termed "nonsense."

Though he received more applause than catcalls—the margin was close—Ruckelshaus acknowledged that he had not achieved effective communication with his audience.

A sampling of students bore this out. Typical objections included accusations that Ruckelshaus lacked credibility "because he works for the Nixon administration;" that his appearance on campus was designed to provoke a physical confrontation to aid GOP candidates in the Nov. 3 elections, and that what Ruckelshaus had to say was meaningless because he is a representative of a "decadent system."

Today in Washington, concerned Justice officials were glumly anticipating the next 52 campus appearances. One official said that what may have been a good idea by Attorney General John N. Mitchell back in August may go sour in succeeding weeks.

He added, however, "I guess we don't have any choice but to brazen it out."