

BREWSTER DOUBTS FAIR BLACK TRIALS

**Yale President Is 'Skeptical'
That Revolutionaries Can
Obtain Justice in U.S.**

By **JOSEPH B. TREASTER**
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NEW HAVEN, April 24—
Kingman Brewster Jr., the
president of Yale University,
declared last night that he was
"skeptical of the ability of
black revolutionaries to achieve
a fair trial anywhere in the
United States."

He said he was "appalled
and ashamed" that such a situ-
ation had developed.

Mr. Brewster issued the
statement after a two-and-a-
half-hour faculty meeting
called to discuss a student
strike that began at Yale
Wednesday.

The strike was initially called
to win the university's support
for the eight Black Panthers
who are awaiting trial on
charges of murder and kidnap-
ping, but student demands
now extend to other social
issues, including Yale's rela-
tionship to the New Haven
community and to its employes.

In the meeting last night,
the faculty voted overwhelm-
ingly to allow students and

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faculty members the choice of
suspending normal academic
activities without being penal-
ized.

George May, the dean of
Yale College and the presiding
officers at the meeting, said he
felt the 400 faculty members
had taken the strongest pos-
sible position in support of
"those persons who feel that
under the present circum-
stances it is impossible for
them to concentrate on their
academic work."

Mr. Brewster's statement
noted that he was speaking
personally and not for the uni-
versity when he expressed his
skepticism.

In the same personal vein, he
added that, in large part, the
atmosphere of doubt about the
ability of black revolutionaries
to achieve a fair trial "has been
created by police actions and
prosecutions against the Pan-
thers in many parts of the
country."

"It is also one more inher-
itance from centuries of racial
discrimination and oppression,"
he continued.

Mr. Brewster cautioned that
"doing anything to inflame the
community would be the worst
possible service to the defend-
ants."

Issues Could Be Clouded

"Their chance of being able
to raise and prevail on the
many real legal and constitu-
tional issues raised by the ar-
rest and indictment would be
smothered if political passions
were allowed to dominate the
scene of the trial," Mr. Brew-
ster said.

Adopting an official stance,
Mr. Brewster said that the uni-
versity was prepared "to meet
the expenses or make available
the faculty time" to monitor
the trial, report its develop-
ments and review its fairness
"not just for the benefit of the
profession but for the benefit
of the public."

He said that there was "an
absolute legal barrier" to the
use of university funds for the
legal defense of any defendant
or for his bail.

"We could not use funds
given to us for the tax-deduct-
ible purpose of education and
turn them over for the benefit
of a particular person to whom
a gift would not qualify for a
tax deduction," Mr. Brewster
said.

In a resolution modifying the
normal activities of the uni-
versity, in which Mr. Brewster
concurred, the faculty members
said that, in addition to being
free to suspend classes, profes-

sors should "take a tolerant po-
sition in regard to assignments
and papers handed in late and
they should make as much
time as possible available for
the discussion of immediat and
pressing issue."

In other sections of the reso-
lution, the faculty:

¶Proposed the establishment
of a faculty fund to deal with
"any financial aspects that
might arise from the present
situation," in New Haven.

¶Supported a proposal by
the Black Students Alliance at
Yale for a national conference
of black organizations at Yale
on the weekend of May 9.

¶Supported requests that Mr.
Brewster initiate discussions
with black organizations on
campus and in the New Haven
community leading to the es-
tablishment of a commission
to take action on "Yale involve-
ment with the black commu-
nity."

¶Urged Yale colleagues to
discuss the issues here with
other professional organiza-
tions, both private and govern-
mental.

¶Affirmed the belief that
"there can be no place in the
university for those who would
reprove others of the right to
speak or act freely and non-
violently."

Mr. Brewster gave personal
approval to the modifications
in academic activities and
noted that he felt the faculty
had made it clear that there
was "no desire to urge, let
alone require, any faculty
[member] to suspend class."

Dean May said today that a
proposal by black professors
to cancel all classes had been
accepted, after undergoing
some "critical" amendments
and additions. He character-
ized the final resolution as a
compromise. "We did not say
were on strike," he said, "nor
did we say business as usual."

Although a steering commit-
tee has been established, lead-
ership in the strike has been
generally vague. As a partial
result, the direction and goals
of the strike have been some-
what unclear.

Many students said today
that they had no intention of
attempting to stop the Black
Panther trial, but they said they
feared some people saw his as
their objective.

"The bulk of the students
are not striking with the de-
mand that the Black Panthers
be freed," said Kai T. Erikson,
the master of Trumbull Col-
lege, one of the university's 12
residential colleges. "They are
striking in concern that a free
and fair trial be maintained."