

Eggs Thrown at Ford and Laird

Providence

Demonstrators hurled eggs and tomatoes at Vice President Gerald R. Ford and White House adviser Melvin R. Laird as they entered Providence College's Alumni Hall yesterday.

After dark, demonstrators burned an effigy of Laird outside the building.

Ford and Laird were there to attend a money-raising dinner for the mentally retarded.

Laird, who will soon leave

his post as President Nixon's chief domestic counselor, received the Fogarty Foundation's Humanitarian Award for his work on behalf of the mentally retarded.

At least one demonstrator was taken into custody by police.

About 150 persons participated in a demonstration charging Laird should not receive a humanitarian award because of his role as defense secretary during the Vietnam war.

Neither Laird nor the Vice President was hit by any of the objects.

Another group of about 100 persons, almost mostly students, applauded Laird and Ford as they entered the auditorium.

In the main address of the evening, Ford praised Laird for his work in helping pass legislation to better the treatment of the mentally retarded.

Ford said that as a congressman Laird spent many

hours shaping legislation for the mentally retarded. After Laird became secretary of defense in 1969, Ford said Laird continued to keep tabs on what Congress and the administration were doing in programs for the mentally retarded.

"And I know that although Mel is leaving the government in a few days, that unflagging dedication to the improvement of the mentally retarded will continue," Ford said.

Associated Press