

Order Closing Colleges

Text of Reagan Message

Here is the text of Governor Reagan's television and radio message Wednesday on the closure of the University of California and state college campuses:

"On colleges and universities throughout the nation emotions are running high. One hundred and eighty campuses are already facing violence and disruption triggered by the tragedy at an Ohio school.

"I therefore have called President Charles Hitch of the University of California and Chancellor Glenn Dumke of our state colleges and have asked them to close all the state universities and colleges tomorrow and Friday — and, of course, Saturday and Sunday. I have also by wire asked the private colleges and universities and the community colleges in California to consider doing the same thing.

"I am grateful to the California broadcast pool for making it possible to come before you to explain why this unprecedented action is necessary.

'Take Inventory'

"The time has come for responsible citizens of all political persuasions and all ages to pause long enough to take inventory. The area of immediate concern is the academic community — but what is happening there is happening to all of us.

"Over a period of more than five years we have seen marches, demonstrations and sit-ins escalate and lead to vandalism, window-breaking — and eventually — bombings and arson and, inevitably, to death. As dissent became disorder beyond the ability of campus police to control, local and state enforcement agencies were called upon. Those who deal in violence seized upon even this as cause for more violence . . . blaming the authorities for escalation.

"They know better. Indeed, they know that in most cases their violence was instigated for the very purpose of causing confrontation with the law and hopefully to bring about injury to non-involved students so as to cause the radicalization of the moderates.

"And, they have been all too successful. In our state, a half dozen have died from bomb and gun—others have been maimed and blinded.

'Death Not Selective'

"And so it was in Ohio; and, four young people are dead. It is possible they were not even participants in the trouble—but, death is not very selective when the violence of a mob is confronted by the force necessary to contain it.

"I suggest that those across our land and here in our state who would use this tragedy to further their own cause — whether it be disagreement with national policy or hatred of the establishment — are contemptible in their hypocrisy.

"I realize there is little to be gained by appealing to the hard core who are capable of such hypocrisy. So, my words are directed to you — the great majority of students and faculty who believe there is a better way.

"I know you, too, have grievances — perhaps with the university or college, or with the shortcomings you see in our society. Many of you find the war repugnant and, as a result, are inclined to listen to those who advocate violence in the name of peace.

'Our Best Hope'

"It is because of this, and because you are our best hope for restoring the kind of atmosphere in which we can meet and find solutions to these problems that I have asked the universities and state colleges be closed.

"Go to your homes; take the next four days to review all that has happened. See if there is not a better way than going on with the torch and the club until, as surely as the sun rises, there are more Kent universities.

"Whatever happens in the rest of the nation, let us here in California have a pause in the rallies and the noise of the bullhorns. Let us take these four days to review both our aspirations and our responsibilities.

"We can have a new beginning. Monday can be the first day of the new time — a time of the dissent without disorder, of dialogue and discussion without destruction. Of an honest, non-violent search for answers and solutions.

Personal Value

"The pursuit of education is a personal value which not only permits a student to improve his knowledge, but also permits him or her an opportunity to improve society for the knowledge gained. A student has a responsibility to fellow students in order to protect the rights of all to this opportunity for an education and we all have an obligation and duty to support a nation whose goals and objectives are set by centuries of efforts, tradition, and culture and yet to see that tradition does not become a stultifying adherence to the past and a rejection of proper change.

"Faculties, too, have a grave obligation. No single class of people have such opportunities. The wisdom which faculties possess are the treasury of a society. The ability to transmit this wisdom is the art of ages. The failure to lead the inquiring hungry minds of students in the pursuit of knowledge and truth is the supreme crime of an age and the loss of a generation. It is time faculties ascended again to their role of helping maturing minds to achieve their ultimate goals.

"Administrators are those charged with the fateful role of insuring that the freedom of students and faculty to inter-relate takes place. Let us all assess

our roles and return Monday, May 11, determined to make academic freedom a meaningful thing and not a cloak to serve those who would destroy it even while they used it.

"During this period of reflection, I would hope that you who are parents would have an opportunity to exchange views with your sons and daughters and to express the hope that they will have faith in those endeavoring to lead man to a better way of life and to reject those who are attempting to divide, to deny and to destroy.

'Not Giving In'

"I want to make it very clear that closing the campuses for this four-day period is not — in any way — giving in to those who preach and practice violence. As a matter of fact, this is support for those who believe in non-violence.

"Lest there be any who would misread the meaning and purpose of this four-day period, let me assure you that any resort to violence or destruction, any illegal individual or mob action, will be dealt with — firmly and immediately. Surely it should be obvious by now that this state has the collective law enforcement strength to deal with such disturbances. And, those who engage in such acts will now be fully exposed for who and what they are. They will not be able to fade away into the crowds of curious; they will not be able to hide behind the innocent.

"I believe the time has come for the academic community, students and faculty to at last admit that whatever grievances, whatever legitimate complaints they have had with regard to the university, its purposes, goals or functions, they are in no way related to the causes of the real radicals.

"I realize there are limitations on the capacity of the university administrators with regard to identifying participants on the larger campuses and, thus, being able to utilize swift and certain punishment. The missing factor in this equation is to be found among the students and faculty members. And I believe the time has come for them to make some decisions — namely that a number of duly authorized campus organizations, consistent instigators of the violence, and participants in violence should no longer be entitled to campus recognition or acceptance.

"Also, that students and faculty repudiate those who have brought violence to the campus and the community, and take every step possible to separate themselves from those individuals and groups. Should you not review your policy with regard to campus speakers who have no truly educational value but who are invited on some unfounded assumption that to refuse to hear them is in some way a denial of free speech? Haven't many of these speakers demeaned and degraded the university?

'A Real Review'

"Then, if the university is indeed engaged in a search for truth, isn't it time to have a real review and critique of all that has taken place in the name of protest to determine once and for all the true nature of these several years of disorder — and whether there was not indeed a pattern and a meaning beyond just the first assumptions that this was evidence of youthful ferment, and an expression of youthful idealism?

"Have the causes for which the protestors marched been truly the causes they pronounced, or did they march simply in the name of disruption, borrowing causes as justification for their violence? Hasn't the time come — in a real atmosphere of academic freedom and the spirit of good will — when administrators, educators, students, the public and government can find the answers to the problems of impersonality in the university, proper support of education, the goals of education, and the business of improving the process of learning?

"I make these only as suggestions as some of the things that have not been done and perhaps could be done.

"They are matters properly to be settled within the academic community. I will simply say there must be an end to the violent disruption of the campuses . . . beginning now.

'What Has Happened?'

"I know these are troubled times. Many of us are anxious about the future. About the economic situation. About Vietnam. About the problems of the campus. In the stillness of the night, most of us ask ourselves upon occasion 'What has happened? What has gone wrong?'"

"We do have some problems. And it is important that we face them with candor and frankness. But it is also important that we face them with faith, and with a knowledge that we have ample strength within ourselves — and among ourselves — to solve our problems.

"This nation has had problems before — we have met them and the American system has prevailed. That system works; it is working now. There is no need for despair; what is needed now is clarity of reason, common sense, and the power of prayer.

"Several weeks ago this state — this nation — was united in an outpouring of faith and prayer that the crew of Apollo 13 be returned safely to earth. For four days we were one — one with the men in that tiny craft, one with each other.

'Same Oneness'

"If, in these four days ahead we would embark on that same oneness, if we would use that same power of prayer and put some faith to work — in each other, in ourselves, and in our nation — we can continue the American journey

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in brightness, and hope, with courage and promise.

"During a dinner at Mt. Vernon, Lafayette turned to his host, General Washington, and said 'General, you Americans — even in war and desperate times — have a superb spirit. You are happy and you are confident. Why is it?'"

"Washington, it is said, was quiet for a moment and then he replied, 'There is freedom. There is space for a man to be alone and think . . . And, there are friends who owe each other nothing but affection.'

"This is still true in this land — especially so in California.

"We have accomplished so much and yet we have no time to be idle or misdirected because we know there is still so much to be done . . . such a bright future to be won by work and courage, together.

'Dream of Camelot'

"Whatever the name of it, man has always had a dream of Camelot. That mythical place of truth and justice and brotherhood where all men will live in peace.

"No one has ever come closer to the realization of that dream than we have here in this favored land. For 200 years our national purpose has been to defend and enhance every man's right to chart his own way . . . follow his own star. We have fallen short and failed that dream at times — but, the dream has never failed us.

"This is Camelot . . . man's last and best chance to make the myth a reality.

"But, Camelot can be lost if we fail even for an instant in time to remember

the lasting values — the treasures of true worth—the things to be preserved and handed on are the things for which men have always been willing to give their all.

"Camelots are not built by shouting slogans or holding sit-ins or expressing hatred for some mysterious 'they' whom we can blame for whatever cause we are protesting.

'Made by Building'

"Camelots are made by building — building men and building institutions; by giving every man his right to dream and be whatever his manhood can make him.

"Camelots are made by having common courtesy as well as compassion for one another — by loving even those who seem unlovely. By realizing sometimes when we are arguing with someone stupid that he may be doing the same thing.

"All of this may sound mundane and unexciting compared to a riot . . . but, it is where the real action is.

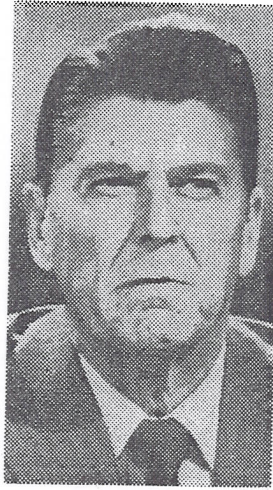
"And, you of the 'now' generation are very much needed in that constructive action. We need your youth, your strength and yes, your idealism to put lustre back in our dreams.

"And, you should discover—or perhaps, rediscover — something about us of the older generation . . . those of us who left so many of our best on the fields and beaches and hills of World War II and Korea:

"We love peace, too.

"Together, in a new beginning, perhaps we can find it."

3 Faces of Reagan



As Governor Reagan fought back tears during his televised address last night, his face mirrored his emotional plea to California students: "See if there is not a better

way than going on with the torch and the club until, as surely as the sun rises, there are more Kent universities."

—AP Photos