

13 MAY 70

# Reagan Hints Of a Plot On Campuses

By Michael Harris

Governor Ronald Reagan appeared to find agreement from many but certainly not all in an audience of editors of most of the nation's leading newspapers when he suggested yesterday that the American campuses are in turmoil because of a long-range plot.

The governor did not actually say such a detailed plan existed. His precise words were:

"Is this just a ferment of youth? Are these young people just showing their idealism? Or is it possible that there is a plot involved? Is it possible that some people set out several years ago to make this happen?"

## THREAD

Reagan did, however, say he found a common thread tying together the crises of the early '60s with those of today.

"One thing hasn't changed," Reagan said at a luncheon of the American Society of Newspaper Editors at the Hilton Hotel. "The same faculty names that were making the inflammatory speeches in 1960 and 1963 are the same ones that turn up at every rally.

"Oh, sure, they say, 'No violence. We really deplore violence.' But they calmly (add), 'If the government won't change, it's your right to overthrow it.'"

## QUESTIONS

Reagan made his observations in reply to a series of questions by four distinguished editors. A telegraphed request, by some University of California students and faculty members that they be allowed to join in was turned down.

The governor was asked what he thought about Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

"I haven't heard him say anything unprintable about these factions on the campus — which I cannot say about the people talking about him," Reagan replied. "I don't think he's said anything in bad taste about them."

Reagan conceded that it was not just "the small radical group" that is opposed to the invasion of Cambodia. The vast majority of what he

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called "the good students" also oppose the war, he said — erroneously, in Reagan's view.

"If you want to ask what is the last four years," he said, "It's sitting in that office and having an almost irresistible urge at times to say, 'For God's sake, listen . . . you may be wrong.'"

At another point, Reagan said he thought President Nixon's policy in Vietnam was both successful and necessary.

"I think there are going to be some mighty red faces on those campuses within a few weeks," the governor declared. "We've captured more material than the (U.S.

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) military intelligence believed the enemy owned in toto. Is it too much to ask we wait a few weeks (before judging)0 . . .

"I subscribe to the domino theory. To those who say it doesn't exist, has anyone asked the dominoes?"

The questions kept returning to the campus. Reagan was asked how he thought peace could be restored in universities.

"There is an element that wants the destruction not only of the university but the destruction of this system and this way of ours," Reagan said. "And I think it is time for the administrators, backed by the people, to stand up and say there is no place any more on our campuses."

The rest of the sentence was drowned out by applause.

"I don't know that in all the five years of the disruption at the University of California — with several deaths and millions of dollars in fire-bombings — I don't know of a single expulsion of a student that has taken place."

(A spokesman at the Berkeley campus said the term, "expulsion", has not been used. He said 57 students have been "separated" from that campus, which he said meant dismissal with no assurance of future readmission. Another 158 students have been suspended from Berkeley for various lengths of time. No figures were immediately available for the other eight campuses.)

Reagan said administrators have told him, "Actually they believe it would be impossible to get a committee that would discipline another faculty member."

As for himself, Reagan said, he had helped bring peace by closing university and college campuses from Thursday until Monday.

"I think it (the closing) worked," Reagan said. "I believe if I hadn't done it, there would have been terrible violence on all our campuses."

Reagan drew to standing ovations — one before he spoke and a second, which took somewhat longer to organize and was not quite as complete, when he finished.