

Young Nixon Aides Tell Of the Bitter Campuses

San Francisco Chronicle 11
Tues., June 9, 1970

Eight youthful White House staff members reported to President Nixon yesterday that the Cambodian operation seriously damaged his support on the campuses and drove many moderate students into the arms of radicals.

The president met for more than an hour with eight White House staff members he dispatched last month to sample opinion of some 30 university campuses.

Chancellor Alexander heard of Vanderbilt University, the president's temporary adviser on campus activities and thinking, was at the meeting.

STAFF

The eight staff members, all under 30, were described as shocked by what they discovered on the campuses. They reportedly told the president that the extreme opposition to the Cambodian operation and the Vietnam war is not a fringe phenomenon but a widespread condition in the universities.

The staff members visited 30 campuses in all sections of

the country. Their reports generally bore out what others previously have found about the extent of student and faculty opposition to the administration's southeast Asian policies.

One informant said the president now fully recognizes the extent of the campus opposition to him and his policies and is "very sensitive" to the problem.

Hugh Sloan, 29, who visited Princeton, Columbia, Rutgers, Connecticut college, the coast guard academy and New York University, said after visiting Columbia that "the depth of feeling is considerably stronger than I personally imagined."

BLOW

He met at Low Library on the Columbia campus last month with student and faculty groups. Professor Charles Frankel of the philosophy department, a former assistant secretary of state for cultural affairs, said after meeting Sloan that

the Cambodian operation was a blow to moderates on campus.

Students "felt betrayed," Frankel said at the time. Dean Carl Hovde of Columbia college, who also met with Sloan, told reporters that "patience has snapped over the (war) issue."

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said that the eight staff members spent three or four days each visiting different campuses.

Officials said the eight had been "shocked" by the extent to which conservative and moderate students had turned against the administration because of Cambodia.

Ziegler said the staff members "talked to students, administrators and faculty to get their views — primarily to assess their feelings for the specific purpose of communicating their views to the president."

The staff members reported that a major target of campus criticism was vice president Spiro T. Agnew.

STUDENTS

In a related development, Mayor Henry W. Maier of Milwaukee and Garry Sellers, a student from the University of Wisconsin, left at the White House a referendum showing 61 per cent of the students on the campus opposed the Cambodian operation.

Times-Post Service