

Peacemaker on Campus Panel

Joseph Rhodes Jr.

By ROBERT REINHOLD

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 16—To those who know him well, Joseph Rhodes Jr. is a complex, altruistic youth who is endowed with an extraordinary ability to come up with inspiring new ideas and get other people to carry them out. He is, they say, rather oblivious to the amenities of life, does

Man not like to dance
in the and sometimes
News even eats candy
bars for break-
fast. His friends
and enemies describe him
with such adjectives as
"charismatic," "brilliant," "visionary" and "particulate" and say he is possessed of a leadership ability that he feels—not always very modestly—must be put to great use.

"He really feels he has a mission in this world," said Janet Stapel, an old friend of Mr. Rhodes at the California Institute of Technology, where he was a student president for two years before coming to Harvard as a junior fellow, one of the youngest men ever to receive that honor.

On Saturday, he was appointed by President Nixon to a commission to investigate campus unrest, a post that Vice President Agnew asked him to resign today because of remarks that he made in an interview on Sunday.

At 22 years of age, Mr. Rhodes has accomplished more than many men twice his age. At Caltech he led what Prof. Lyman Bonner, director of student relations, calls the "Rhodes Revolution."

This was an entirely peaceful series of changes at the school by which students were placed on all decision-making bodies and an independent student-directed research center was set up.

"I did everything to make Caltech a place of revolutionary change without violence," Mr. Rhodes said at an interview in his suite at Harvard, cluttered with old school mementoes, and uncollected trash.



Associated Press

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An Eminent Moderate

In fact, he is given much credit by the Caltech administration and faculty for the fact that the school has had no student disruptions. They say he was an eminent moderate, despised by the radicals and black militants, and they express surprise over Vice President Agnew's attack.

He was regarded as a peacemaker, a role he wishes to continue in as a member of the President's commission on campus unrest, and he has vowed to get at the truth even if it hurts the Administration.

He acknowledges that some feel he's "copping out" to the Administration, "but I can't afford that kind of pride when people are being killed."

Mr. Rhodes, who speaks

quietly but rapidly and usually dresses conservatively in a blue blazer, drops names so often that one is at first tempted to call him pretentious were it not clear that he is on very close terms with men in high places.

He has served as consultant to various Government agencies often speaking with John D. Ehrlichman, President Nixon's assistant. He also directs a \$95,000 independent study project funded by the Ford Foundation.

He was born in Pittsburgh on Aug. 14, 1947, the son of a black steel worker ("I guess that makes me working class") and an Oriental woman his father met in the Philippines during the war.

He has four brothers and sisters who are no less precocious. A brother, Eduardo, 24, was graduated magna cum laude from Princeton and is an officer in the Navy off Vietnam. Manuel, 19, is a sophomore at Harvard, and Ernesto, 12, will attend a prep school in Massachusetts this fall on a scholarship. And Terrista, his 10-year-old sister, dances with the Pittsburgh Ballet.

The driving force behind this family is his mother, Iphigenia, or Penny, as most call her. The day Mr. Rhodes was appointed to the panel, she called to encourage him. "A lot of people in Pittsburgh don't like the murders on campus," she said.