

# BREWSTER DOUBTS FAIR BLACK TRIALS

Yale President Is 'Skeptical'  
That Revolutionaries Can  
Obtain Justice in U.S.

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Special to The New York Times

NEW HAVEN, April 24—

Kingman Brewster Jr., the president of Yale University, declared last night that he was "skeptical of the ability of black revolutionaries to achieve a fair trial anywhere in the United States."

He said he was "appalled and ashamed" that such a situation had developed.

Mr. Brewster issued the statement after a two-and-a-half-hour faculty meeting called to discuss a student strike that began at Yale Wednesday.

The strike was initially called to win the university's support for the eight Black Panthers who are awaiting trial on charges of murder and kidnaping, but student demands now extend to other social issues, including Yale's relationship to the New Haven community and to its employees.

In the meeting last night, the faculty voted overwhelmingly to allow students and

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faculty members the choice of suspending normal academic activities without being penalized.

George May, the dean of Yale College and the presiding officers at the meeting, said he felt the 400 faculty members had taken the strongest possible position in support of "those persons who feel that under the present circumstances it is impossible for them to concentrate on their academic work."

Mr. Brewster's statement noted that he was speaking personally and not for the university when he expressed his skepticism.

In the same personal vein, he added that, in large part, the atmosphere of doubt about the ability of black revolutionaries to achieve a fair trial "has been created by police actions and prosecutions against the Panthers in many parts of the country."

"It is also one more inheritance from centuries of racial discrimination and oppression," he continued.

Mr. Brewster cautioned that "doing anything to inflame the community would be the worst possible service to the defendants."

#### Issues Could Be Clouded

"Their chance of being able to raise and prevail on the many real legal and constitutional issues raised by the arrest and indictment would be smothered if political passions were allowed to dominate the scene of the trial," Mr. Brewster said.

Adopting an official stance, Mr. Brewster said that the university was prepared "to meet the expenses or make available the faculty time" to monitor the trial, report its developments and review its fairness "not just for the benefit of the profession but for the benefit of the public."

He said that there was "an absolute legal barrier" to the use of university funds for the legal defense of any defendant or for his bail.

"We could not use funds given to us for the tax-deductible purpose of education and turn them over for the benefit of a particular person to whom a gift would not qualify for a tax deduction," Mr. Brewster said.

In a resolution modifying the normal activities of the university, in which Mr. Brewster concurred, the faculty members said that, in addition to being free to suspend classes, profes-

sors should "take a tolerant position in regard to assignments and papers handed in late and they should make as much time as possible available for the discussion of immediate and pressing issue."

In other sections of the resolution, the faculty:

¶Proposed the establishment of a faculty fund to deal with "any financial aspects that might arise from the present situation," in New Haven.

¶Supported a proposal by the Black Students Alliance at Yale for a national conference of black organizations at Yale on the weekend of May 9.

¶Supported requests that Mr. Brewster initiate discussions with black organizations on campus and in the New Haven community leading to the establishment of a commission to take action on "Yale involvement with the black community."

¶Urged Yale colleagues to discuss the issues here with other professional organizations, both private and governmental.

¶Affirmed the belief that "there can be no place in the university for those who would deprive others of the right to speak or act freely and non-violently."

Mr. Brewster gave personal approval to the modifications in academic activities and noted that he felt the faculty had made it clear that there was "no desire to urge, let alone require, any faculty [member] to suspend class."

Dean May said today that a proposal by black professors to cancel all classes had been accepted, after undergoing some "critical" amendments and additions. He characterized the final resolution as a compromise. "We did not say we were on strike," he said, "nor did we say business as usual."

Although a steering committee has been established, leadership in the strike has been generally vague. As a partial result, the direction and goals of the strike have been somewhat unclear.

Many students said today that they had no intention of attempting to stop the Black Panther trial, but they said they feared some people saw his as their objective.

"The bulk of the students are not striking with the demand that the Black Panthers be freed," said Kai T. Erikson, the master of Trumbull College, one of the university's 12 residential colleges. "They are striking in concern that a free and fair trial be maintained."