A CHRONOLOGY OF A CRISIS
AT
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
DECEMBER 9, 1972
PREFACE

For the past two months, Southern University, the largest Black university in the world, has been in the throes of student unrest. Seeking immediate changes in administration, governance, curricula, and living conditions, the students issued a list of demands and began a boycott of classes. The administration and faculty, shortly thereafter, began negotiations with students and discussions among themselves in an effort to redress these demands with dispatch.

During these months of travail, numerous versions of the events, charges, and counter-charges have been evident in newspaper accounts, on radio and television, and in daily conversations. Many concerned persons, including students, faculty, alumni, and friends are unaware of the various activities that occurred on and off campus.

In order to apprise everyone concerned of these meetings and attempts at solutions to the problems, this committee presents a chronology of events: a day-by-day account of the meetings, the unedited documents, the positions taken, the harassments, and the damages to the physical plant.

With the knowledge that inadvertently there may be important omissions, we hope that the reader has been given enough data to make his own assessment of the total situation.

CHRONOLGY COMMITTEE

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## A CHRONOLOGY OF A CRISIS AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

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CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

Oct. 17
The first indication of any disturbance at Southern University occurred late Tuesday night at 12:00 midnight when a group of students went to the President’s private home located on Harding Boulevard in the Scotlandville community. They were protesting the resignation of Dr. Charles Waddell as Chairman of the Psychology Department. He did not resign from the University Faculty.

The President, Dr. G. Leon Netterville, indicated that he had not received the resignation and that when he did he would take whatever action that was necessary.

NOTE: Dr. Charles Waddell had informed the Psychology faculty and some students, but had not apprised the administration of his resignation prior to the mailing of his letter.

Oct. 18
The letter of resignation was received by the President.

Oct. 19
The administration asked Dr. Waddell to reconsider, but he refused. He was asked to "mull" over the matter and indicated that he would.

A group of students called "Students United" distributed around the campus a paper dealing with "resignations and/or actual removals" (SEE APPENDIX I, PAGE 31).

That morning, a student informed the President that "Students United" wanted to meet with him at 11:00 a.m. that day. At the time, the President was in a meeting with administrative officers of the Southern University System on the university budget. He sent Dr. Lewis White, Dean of the College of Sciences, and Mr. Howard Smith, Dean of Men, to meet with the
students and to tell them he would be glad to meet with them one hour later. The students received the deans and announced that the meeting was over. They stated that they did not wish to discuss anything with the President's representatives.

Some of the leaders of "Students United" were Fred Prejean, Charlene Hardnett, Ricky Hill, Herget Harris, Nathanial Howard and Ola Sims. Others appeared with the group on various occasions.

Three dummy figures were burned in effigy outside T. T. Allain Hall. (Allain Hall houses the following areas: College of Business, the Departments of Computer Science, Foreign Languages, Mathematics and Psychology). A group of 100-200 students demanded and coerced the faculty and staff to vacate classrooms and offices of T. T. Allain Hall and Harris Hall. (Harris Hall houses the Departments of English, Journalism and Philosophy and the following offices: College of Arts, Graduate School, Thirteen Colleges, Veterans' Affairs, Registrar's Office and office of the Vice President). These two halls, subsequently, bore the brunt of the demonstrations.

Approximately 500 students went to the administration building. A large number marched into the President's office demanding to see him. A hole was knocked in one of the doors. Sand, cigarette butts and ashes were strewn over the floor of the outer office. The President met with the crowd in an adjoining conference room; however, with so many students packed into the room making demands and others jammed into the hallways, it was decided to go outside.

On the steps of the Administration Building, Charlene Hardnett, one of the leaders began to read a list of statements. After each, she demanded that
the President fulfill the request or resign. The President asked them to prepare a list of grievances so that the administration would have something to act on.

"Students United" leaders called for a mass meeting in the Men’s Gymnasium. About 2,000 students attended. The leaders called for a boycott of classes. Charlene Hardnett asked the students to represent their departments by grouping themselves in various sections of the gym and preparing a list of grievances on the spot.

The students leaders received the grievances and typed them into one document. (SEE APPENDIX II, PAGE 32).

The students presented the list of grievances to the President and demanded an answer at their 10:00 a.m. meeting.

The President met with the students in the Men’s Gymnasium. He stated that he could not give them an answer in such a short span of time, but that he would meet with the faculty and administrative officials and try to give them an answer as soon as possible.

NOTE: Foremost among the grievances were the councils setups at various levels with the students having a 2-1 voting power. (SEE APPENDIX II, PAGE 33).

NOTE: Many faculty and students attending the meeting stated that the leaders were quite disrespectful to the President. (SEE APPENDIX III, PAGE 47).
Faculty members of the university met in Stewart Hall, Room 155. After a lengthy discussion of the situation, a consensus was reached: that the faculty meet by departments and draw up recommendations to present to the University Senate that afternoon.

The University Senate met in the University Chapel to obtain recommendations from the departments and discuss the students’ grievances. After lengthy discussion, a consensus of opinion was reached and late that night a final paper was formulated. (SEE APPENDIX IV, PAGE 48).

The President met with the students again in a mass meeting in the Men’s Gymnasium. Dr. Rogers Newman, Chairman of the Mathematics Department, read the University Senate’s response. In essence, it stated that the students would have input into university governance through representation at the University Senate and departmental levels and that the university was continuing to address itself to the physical needs as funds became available.

The "Students United" leaders rejected the entire document. They then led about 1,000-2,000 students in a march to the State Board of Education and demanded to see Superintendent Louis Michot. During the march, it was reported that the police, "ready for combat action", were stationed at various points along the route.

They were met by Winston Riddick, Assistant Superintendent of Education, who stated that Michot was out of town. He also mentioned that Superintendent Michot had been contacted and had relayed the following
message: that there is the need to see that every student gets equal educational opportunity and justice and that institutions of higher learning all have not been treated equally. Jesse Stone, Assistant Superintendent of Education for Community Affairs, mentioned that Michot welcomed the students that day and any day they wished to come.

The students marched to the State Capitol to speak to Governor Edwards. On the steps of the Capitol, Fred Prejean demanded the resignations of President G. Leon Netterville, Vice President E. C. Harrison and Dr. Lewis L. White, Dean of the College of Sciences. This was the first call for the resignations of the three officials, a call which received wide television coverage. The Governor stated that he was not aware of the problems at the university but was willing to work toward a solution to them.

A group of faculty members met and formulated a statement supporting the three administrative officials. Over 300 members signed the following statement:

We, the undersigned faculty and staff members of Southern University, hereby proclaim that we do not support the widely publicized demand made by Mr. Frederick Prejean on behalf of a segment of the Southern University student body which called for the resignations of President G. Leon Netterville, Vice President Elton C. Harrison and Dean L. L. White.

The State Board of Education met in session and listened to various spokesmen. Superintendent Michot had returned to Baton Rouge.
Superintendent Michot traveled to the campus to meet with the students in the Men's Gymnasium. Student representatives from Southern University in New Orleans (SUNO), the Southern University Branch in Shreveport (SUSBO) and Grambling College addressed the assembly and pledged their support.

The State Board of Education met again. They appointed a 7-member committee to investigate the students' demands. The students were not satisfied with this response and walked out the meeting.

A group of 30-40 faculty members met at the Newman Center located across Clark Drive on the edge of the campus. Their main purpose was to prepare an agenda for a called faculty meeting on October 27 at 10:00 a.m. They also drew up a statement indicating the desire for faculty input into university governance. Superintendent Michot and Frederick Eagan, State Board member, appeared during the meeting and spoke with some of the faculty members.

"Students United" leaders met with Michot and some State Board members in the basement of T. T. Allain Hall. The student leaders made the following two demands:

1. that the various councils stipulated be in operation by Friday morning, October 27.

2. that a new president, selected from their list of twelve candidates be appointed to take office by Monday, October 30. (SEE APPENDIX II PAGE 46).
Michot told them the Board would meet the following day and give them an answer by noon.

SPECIAL NOTE: During the day, Superintendent Michot "suggested" to President Netterville that he resign.

"Intimidations" reportedly continued for those who wished to attend classes. Statements of intimidations appeared in the student newspaper, THE DIGEST. (SEE APPENDIX V, PAGE 52).

Faculty members from the previous evening’s meeting at the Newman Center met with "Students United" leaders in the Electrical Engineering Auditorium. It was pointed to the students that the faculty and administration were separate entities and a modification of the councils was suggested. The students left the auditorium for about 15-20 minutes for consultation purposes. Upon their return, the demands were now the following:

1. that the Executive Council be composed of 18 students (two from each college), 9 faculty members, 9 administrators, with the President voting only in case of a tie. (This was a change from the original student demand of 2-1 voting power).

2. that the departmental councils still maintain the 2-1 voting power for students.

3. that the three previously named administrators resign.

Three different meetings took place at this time.

a. The State Board of Education met in Baton Rouge to consider the students' demands of the previous night and day.
b. The students met in the Men's Gymnasium to await word from the State Board and from the faculty.

c. The faculty met in the University Chapel to consider the 9:00 a.m. proposals.

The faculty voted:

1. to support the President in his decision not to resign under existing conditions. (Only 6 opposed out of approximately 300).

2. in favor of the make-up of the Executive Council 18-9-9.

3. against the 2-1 departmental council.

4. for a modified departmental council which included a 2-1 membership for students, but a 1-1 vote.

The faculty also appointed a Faculty-Advisory Committee of six persons and one alternate. This committee was empowered to negotiate with the students and/or administrators. Members: Dr. William Moore, Chairman, Mr. Henry Bellaire, Mrs. Audrey LeBlanc, Dr. Sidney McNairy, Dr. Jewel Prestage, Dr. Barbara Schufranz and Dr. Robert Stone (alternate).

Members of the committee telephoned the State Board of Education to relay the decision of the faculty and were informed that the Board had not reached a decision.

The committee members went to inform the students of the faculty deliberations, but on arrival found out that the students already knew the results. The students rejected the faculty proposals.
The faculty met again, this time in T. T. Allain (auditorium) and were informed of the students’ rejection. They discussed the situation at length and various other possibilities.

"Students United" leaders and about thirty other students came to the faculty meeting and presented another proposal.

If they would be given the 2-1 voting power at the departmental level, then they would let the Executive Council take care of the President's resignation.

A question and answer session continued until about 8:00 P.M. The students left, but the faculty did not vote for lack of a quorum.

Several hundred students in New Orleans began a boycott at the Southern University Branch (SUNO).

The faculty met in T. T. Allain Hall to vote on the students' new proposal of Friday evening. The proposal was defeated and the faculty re-affirmed its previous stand. The faculty, at this time, expanded the advisory committee to a Faculty-Advisory Council of fourteen persons. These persons were to reflect the thinking of the entire faculty.

Also, at this time, the Seven Member Committee of the State Board arrived on campus to meet with the students in the Men's Gym. They were turned away. Other students were not allowed to express opposing viewpoints to the assembled students.

The students met again in the Men's Gymnasium. (Interruptions and intimidations were still prevalent on campus).
The University Administrative Council met in the President's office. An Administrative Negotiating Committee was appointed by the President. Its function was to negotiate with faculty and/or students.

Members: Dean Henry Cobb, Chairman, Dean Montrust Burrell, Dean Howard Smith, Dr. McKinley Mayes, Dean Edward Ellois, and Acting Dean, Arthur J. Penson.

THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

1. Class Attendance

Classes in the university will meet according to schedule. All students are urged to attend their respective classes.

Students who exercise their right to attend classes will be supported.

The members of the council consider it important that this be achieved in order to move toward the orderly and successful completion of the semester’s work.

The university is continuing to address itself to expressed strident grievances. A statement of concrete action on these matters will be forthcoming.

II. University Governance

The development of strong Black Student Leadership is a desirable goal of the University. As a consequence, all segments of the University, including students, must be involved at all levels of the University’s governance.

III. University Commitment

At the council meeting, President Netterville asserted that he commits the resources and energies of this institution to the creation of a true Black University dedicated to the improvement of Black people in this country.
He urges students, faculty and administrators to join him in this endeavor and hopes that our success will place us in the position of making a positive and unique contribution to the State of Louisiana and offer a brand of education that will benefit all people.

The Faculty Advisory Committee met with the "Students United" leaders and informed them of the faculty's decision. The students became angry and rejected everything. Fred Prejean was said to have made the statement, "We will do something tomorrow which I hope you will regret. If you want to know, call the President."

The Advisory Committee became concerned and called Dr. Netterville, but he had no idea of what was meant. (Intimidations and Interruptions continued).

The students met in the Men's Gymnasium.

Several hundred students left the gym and marched to the Administration Building "to escort" the President from the campus.

Vice President B. A. Little met them at the steps and told them that the President was not in his office. The students went in, however, to check for themselves. They then proceeded to march to the office of Vice President Harrison "to escort" him off the campus. He was not in his office. The students divided into groups and went about the entire campus telling all members of the faculty and staff to get off the campus by 12:00 noon.

The students elected student leader Ricky Hill as President of the university.

The University was officially closed. The following statement was issued:

Southern University President G. Leon Netterville, Tuesday morning, announced the closing of the Baton Rouge campus for an indefinite period of time following an attempted siege of the administration building and the physical removal of administrative officers from the campus by dissident students.
President Netterville's statement, issued Tuesday morning, follows: "The administration and faculty have made every attempt to negotiate with dissident students in regards to grievances relating to physical facilities and a stronger voice in governance. All efforts to negotiate have been futile and, Tuesday morning, an attempted siege of the administration building and the physical removal of administrators from the campus was made."

"In view of the extent of the disruptions and the seriousness of the situation—including a threat of bodily harm to faculty members who did not vacate the campus by noon Tuesday. There remains no choice but to close the university at of 12 noon Tuesday, for an indefinite period of time."

"This is done in the interest of safeguarding students, faculty, staff and administrators and to protect life and property."

"It is expected that all students will leave the university by nightfall."

"Parents and guardians are urged to make arrangements for the transportation back home for their sons and daughters."

The students in New Orleans took over the Administration Building at SUNO.

"Students United" requested an audience with the Scotlandville Area Advisory Council. The meeting was held at 7:30 p.m. in the Neighborhood Service Center—C. J. Gilliam Villa on Harding Boulevard.

Ten-twelve students, including the principals, Fred Prejean, Charlene Hardnett, and Ola Sims, requested that the council help them to accomplish the following:

a. the establishment of an executive council with a 1-1 vote
b. the establishment of a departmental council with a 2-1 vote
c. the resignations of President G. L. Netterville, Vice President E. C. Harrison and Dean L. White.
Each point was discussed over a period of approximately two hours. The council told the students that they were not in favor of any change of the administration under the present circumstances. The students then requested that the council help obtain a statement from the President that he would resign as of June 30 or that he would not accept a new term. A smaller Scotlandville committee was formed to deal with the other demands, but the council specifically informed the students that they would not deal with the question of the resignation of administrative officials.

The smaller Scotlandville committee met at the home of Mr. Oris Williams. The committee approved the following:

a. the Executive Council with a 1-1 vote
b. a modified departmental council with 2-2 student membership but a 1-1 vote
c. the establishment of a college council

The rationale: Many problems could be handled and solved at the college level.

The students had agreed earlier to call back on Sunday for the report of the Scotlandville Advisory Council; however, they never contacted the group again. At this time, the student leaders did not wish for anyone to know where they were located. The report was subsequently presented to the Faculty Advisory Council.

The University issued the following statement with regard to the resumption of classes on November 6:
We certainly hope that all students have returned to the University prepared to engage in serious study and learning so as to assure the successful completion of this semester's work.

In the interest of providing the appropriate climate for this purpose, all members of the University will observe the following:

1. All classes will meet according to the regular schedule.
2. During this period of emergency facilities will not be available for unauthorized group meetings.
3. Students are urged to refrain from participating in unauthorized student assemblies.
4. Final examinations are scheduled to begin by December 1 for graduating seniors and December 8 for other students.
5. All seniors are urged to confer with deans and departmental chairmen on matters pertaining to completion of degree requirements.
6. The last date for withdrawing from courses without penalty has been extended from October 30 to November 6.
7. Students in need of financial aid for the second semester are urged to submit their applications by November 20.

A faculty meeting had been scheduled, but only 35-40 members were present. Nothing could be done with reference to taking positions. An informal discussion ensued and the suggestion was made to speak to the student leaders on an individual basis in an effort to re-establish communication.

Two faculty members met with student leaders and George Baker, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering. The discussion covered the following points:
a. the reopening of negotiations with the administration

b. the repercussions of a confrontation

c. the "mistake" made by students in refusing to speak to members of the State Board of Education

The students refused to talk on an individual basis but only as a group.

Nov. 6

The Baton Rouge campus reopened but the boycott continued. There were further reports of intimidation and disruptions.

10:00 A.M.

An unauthorized student meeting was held in the Men's Gym. A lock was broken on the entrance door and the campus security officers were ignored. A parent addressed the students and pledged her support. Sheriff's deputies were summoned to the campus, but by the time they arrived the students had vacated the gym. They had moved to the Newman Center. The sheriff's deputies left the campus after two-three hours. The deputies, during their stay on campus, were confined to the area behind the Men's Gymnasium.

3:00 P.M.

"Students United" held a press conference at which time they criticized the administration for calling the Sheriff's deputies and for its governance of the university in general.

A veteran's campus organization had a meeting, after which veterans began wearing arm-bands. It was reported that they were part of a communications system to notify the students of any approaching police force.

Nov. 7

Governor Edwards met with the Board of Education and the Black legislators. He then appointed a Twenty-three Member Committee to investigate the situations at both Southern University campuses.
The "Students United" held another unauthorized meeting in the Women's Gym. The purpose, reportedly, was to educate the students as to why "Students United" wanted to remove the President.

The Blue Ribbon Committee met in New Orleans. Dr. James Prestage resigned from the committee. Earlier, the Governor had stated that no representative from Southern would be on the committee, but Dr. Prestage had been appointed because of his experience with the Louisiana Coordinating Council of Higher Education. When there was objection to Dr. Prestage's being on the committee, it was suggested that a Southern University student be added. Since the Governor said that he did not intend to appoint a student, Dr. Prestage resigned in order to keep the peace.

The "Students United" met in the Women's Gymnasium. The mother of Fred Prejean addressed the students and pledged her support.

Students United decided on a new strategy: to sing in classes and if the students did not come out, to remove them.

A bomb went off in T. T. Allain Hall.

That night, one of the agriculture buildings burned to the ground. The Governor set 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 9 as the deadline for students in New Orleans to vacate the administration building.

The university issued warrants for the arrest of four of "Students United" leaders. Two were arrested.

The chairmen of the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Administration Negotiating Committee called the President to try to arrange a meeting of
the two groups with the students. The meeting was set tentatively for Thursday at 10:00 a.m. but later was postponed.

City and State Police arrive on the Baton Rouge campus. All persons entering the campus had to identify themselves.

NOTE: Except for the road blocks, the police force was confined to the area of the Men' Gymnasium.)

A helicopter flew over the campus much of the time.

The students in New Orleans refused to leave the Administration Building at SUNO.

Dr. E. W. Bashful, Vice President of Southern University in New Orleans resigned his position. The students vacated the administration building but continued the boycott and expressed additional demands.

Dr. Moore, Chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee, and Dr. Cobb, Chairman of the Administration Negotiating Committee, met with the President to discuss ways of reopening dialogue with the students.

Members of the SGA (Student Government Association) who had been given limited involvement in the movement by "Students United" were called together by Dean U. S. Jones, advisor to SGA, to meet with the President. It was hoped that these students could effect some change for the better. Nothing resulted from the meeting.
NOTE: As a result of this meeting, Robert Blackwell, President of the SGA, was later accused of being a traitor.

A meeting was held at the T. J. Gilliam Villa again. Attending the meeting were student leaders, members of the Blue Ribbon Committee and some representatives from the Governor's office. The students were told specifically that the representatives from the Governor were not there for any negotiating purposes, but to tell them specifically that the Governor had bent over backwards in the New Orleans situation and could not tolerate a similar situation on the Baton Rouge campus. If anything of a similar nature did occur, the Governor would not consult anybody, would not ask for any advice, but would simply move at his discretion.

Again, three meetings took place: University Senate, Faculty Advisory Committee and the Blue Ribbon Committee.

1. The University Senate meeting was called by the President and all chairmen, deans, and available faculty members were invited. The purpose was to discuss and implement ways to open negotiations again with the students and to break the impasse.

The University Senate recommended the following:

a. To remove the police from the campus
b. To drop the warrants against the leaders
c. To have the three major groups, Administrative Negotiating Committee, the Faculty Advisory Committee, and the "Students United" meet together to work out an agreement.

The President also appointed four at-large members to represent various viewpoints of the university. The three major groups were told to begin negotiations at the earliest possible moment.
The Senate also addressed itself to the actions of the Governor. It was agreed that as many departments as possible protest the Governor's interference into educational matters, such as that which precipitated the resignation of Vice President Bashful of SUNO.

The Physics Department issued a written release which criticized the response of the administration and faculty to the demands of the students. (SEE APPENDIX VI, PAGE 53.)

The President stated emphatically that he would not resign under duress.

2. The Faculty Advisory Committee met for the following purposes:

a. to determine how to begin negotiations again
b. to develop a position concerning negotiations

3. The Blue Ribbon Committee met with the students in Parker Hall. "Students United" demanded that the committee move to the Men's Gymnasium and meet with all the students. At the gym, "Students United" made the following demands on the committee for immediate implementation:

a. removal of the President
b. removal of the warrants
c. academic amnesty
d. right to assemble

Louis Charbonnet, the chairman of the committee, stated that the purpose of the committee was to make recommendations to the Governor but not to implement them. He further stated that the committee could not work in open session with that many students. The committee returned to close sessions in Parker Hall.
The Faculty Advisory Committee met again to develop positions for negotiations. A position paper was issued. (SEE APPENDIX VII PAGE 55)

NOTE: It is significant to note that the three bodies, meeting independently of each other, arrived at approximately the same positions, namely, removal of police force, the dropping of the warrants, and granting of academic amnesty. It is also significant that the University Senate and the Faculty Advisory Committee recommend that the three major parties begin immediate negotiations.

The three groups met in Parker Hall and negotiated with each other until 4:30 a.m. Saturday morning. A consensus paper was issued from the group showing agreement on all points except the resignation of the President. (SEE APPENDIX VIII PAGE 56)

The students met in front of Parker Hall. Fred Prejean related the plans for the boycott of the football game which was scheduled for 2:00 P.M. that afternoon in the University Stadium. The students were to sit in the stands until game time then walk around the track and leave by the west gate.

About 500 students took part in the boycott. It went according to plan except the last stage. A split occurred. Some of the students walked around the track, while others sat on the field and they delayed the game for approximately twenty minutes.

When the boycotting students returned to Parker Hall, the SGA President was labeled a traitor by one of the "Students United" leaders.
Nov. 12

The Governor met with students at the Southern Branch in New Orleans (SUNO). He later announced their refusal to return to classes.

2:00 P.M.

"Students United" met in the Women's Gym with a community group called "Concerned Parents and Interested Citizens". Approximately 30-40 were present who had arrived from the areas of Baton Rouge, Colfax, St. Martinsville, Avery Island and Natchitoches. Charlene Hardnett, Ricky Hill, Fred Prejean, and one other leader expressed their reasons why they were boycotting classes and demanding the resignation of the President. Reportedly, many of the reasons were distorted, and "outright lies." Examples—the police were armed with machine guns; tanks were on campus.

Nov. 13

Class attendance increased significantly.

8:30 A.M.

The three negotiating groups, administration, faculty, and "Students United" met with the President. He explained his reasons for not resigning and for not issuing a statement about a date for retirement.

2:00 P.M.

The Faculty Advisory Committee met to discuss academic amnesty terms.

8:30 P.M.

A group of faculty members met with the "Students United". No agreement was reached. The students still insisted on a date of resignation for the President.

Nov. 14

Class attendance continued on the upswing. Approximately 200-300 students persisted in disrupting classes. The disruptors began to use more forceful methods. (SEE APPENDIX IX, Page 58)

2:00 P.M.

University faculty and administrators testified before the Blue Ribbon Committee in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
The SGA group was called to appear before the Seven-Member Committee of the State Board of Education. The SGA agreed to appear only after it was ascertained that they would be able to speak as a group, and not individually. Nothing of significance was accomplished.

Class attendance on the Baton Rouge campus was at the highest level in weeks. A small group (about 200) of students continued with the disruptions.

The students met in the Women's Gym; Major William Pass, officer in charge of Campus Security, asked them to leave the premises. The students ignored his request.

Other students wishing to go to classes circulated a petition for the right to attend classes.

The President and Vice President met with a group of faculty members to discuss the final amnesty plan. The importance of having the faculty say how amnesty should be implemented was emphasized by the Vice President.

Amnesty papers were in the process of being distributed when an error was noticed in the last sentence. Corrections were made on those copies that were left. (SEE APPENDIX X, PAGE 66)

The warrants for the arrest of the student leaders were reactivated at the request of the President. (The President had previously stated that if disruptions were renewed, the warrants would be reactivated).

Two events were occurring at parallel times: one on the university campus and the other at the State Board of Education.
Governor Edwards addressed the Board and stated that he was suspending the Blue Ribbon Committee. He also requested the Board to reject the resignation of Vice President E. W. Bashful of SUNO. The Governor further stated that he had tried his utmost to help in the situations on the Southern University campuses but, after receiving insults from the students, had arrived at the conclusion that they were not serious in their intentions to negotiate.

The Board concurred with the Governor's wishes. The Board further approved a vote of confidence for President Netterville.

During the interim recess, the Governor and State Board Members received word of the incidents on the Southern University campus.

At the Baton Rouge campus, a group of approximately 150 students marched to the Administration Building.

At first, one of the students entered the building to talk to the President. Some minutes later, a large crowd of students moved into the building and refused to leave.

Approximately fifteen minutes later, about 6-8 Campus Security officers entered the building and escorted the President to his car. He then went to the State Board meeting which was scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.

The police were summoned to the campus and converged on the Administration Building. A warning was issued (Some students inside the building stated that it was not heard).
A tear gas canister was thrown and bedlam broke loose. During the melee, two students were killed and a third wounded. The campus security officers aided in restoring order.

In the aftermath, mass vandalism and damages were perpetrated by some students. The Registrar's Office was gutted by fire. Other fires were set. (SEE APPENDIX XI, PAGE 67)

The University was officially closed until after the Thanksgiving Holidays.

The President sent letters to two faculty members indicating the termination of their services at Southern University.

A second letter was sent to the two faculty members indicating to them their right to appeal the decision.

At the request of university officials, the State Board of Education extended the closing of the campus until January 3rd.

President Netterville cited the following reasons:

1. the need for extensive repairs to damaged buildings
2. the degree of tension within the Baton Rouge community and the State of Louisiana
3. Financial hardships incurred by parents because of the university’s having to close twice within a short period
4. Uncertainty as to readiness of students to return and resume learning activities
5. the time needed for the completion of official investigations
6. the time needed to reconstruct academic records of students that were damaged or destroyed by fire, and
7. to permit time for instructional faculty to make plans for class time lost.
The funeral of Leonard D. Brown, Jr. was held at Gilbert, Louisiana

Nov. 23
The funeral of Denver Allen Smith was held at Lettsworth, Louisiana.

Nov. 26
A university official, Vice President E. C. Harrison, announced the revised academic schedule for the remainder of the 1972-73 school year.

Nov. 28
Damages were uncovered in the Academic Building where law enforcement officers had been housed since Nov. 16. (SEE APPENDIX XII, PAGE 73)

In the aftermath, the future of Southern University has been clouded by various statements provoked by actions during the events of this period, but university officials are going about the task of harnessing the energies of the university toward creating an environment which will be conducive to creative and constructive pursuits.

"The Committee