

ROTC programs attacked at Rutgers, Wisconsin

By RICK FITCH
College Press Service

WASHINGTON (CPS)—ROTC programs at Rutgers and the University of Wisconsin have been hit by incidents of student disruption.

At Rutgers, the fire-bombing of an Army ROTC building set off a series of protests against ROTC that culminated in the arrest of 21 SDS members for disrupting a meeting of the school's Board of Governors.

The FBI is currently investigating the bombing, which did minor damage to window frames, curtains and an office machine. The next day the dean of students cancelled an orientation session for freshmen scheduled by the Army ROTC when 40 demonstrators showed up. SDS had earlier announced their intention to stop ROTC from recruiting.

When a demonstrator tried to enter the meeting, a scuffle broke out during which many of the demonstrators were able to gain entry. They debated with 20 or so freshmen who had appeared for the orientation, but the meeting was officially called off. Some 461 are currently enrolled in ROTC at Rutgers.

Two days later, 21 students were arrested on trespassing and disorderly conduct charges for carrying before the Board of Governors their demands for an end to ROTC and an end to the institution's allegedly discriminatory treatment of Black and Spanish-American workers. Forty participated in all.

The disturbance, which took place in the President's Dining Room, involved the first use of outside police on Rutgers' New Brunswick campus in its history. The students began chanting after entering the meeting, preventing any official from

speaking. When the University president announced the intruders would have to leave in 10 minutes or face suspension, few left.

After 10 minutes were up, the president, Mason Gross, said, "Those of you who are here are suspended from the University pending judicial review . . . Since you are suspended, you are now trespassers." Two hours later, 30 police in riot gear arrested the students and released them shortly on \$25 bail.

President Gross subsequently announced that henceforth the school would not serve as a sanctuary from the law for student lawbreakers. He pledged university cooperation with local police in handling situations that previously had been dealt with under internal university regulations.

At the University of Wisconsin's Milwaukee campus, a faculty member and eight youths, five of them students, were arrested after they marched into ROTC offices on campus. Seven, including the faculty member, were charged with "misconduct on public grounds" under a state law which went into effect last August to deal with campus demonstrations.

Several military-related facilities in the area of Wisconsin's Madison campus were sabotaged or fire-bombed by a group identifying itself as the "Vanguard of the Revolution." The actions came shortly after an Army munitions plant 35 miles north of Madison was subject to the first known air attack on an American munitions plant on its native soil.

Authorities say the saboteur stole a Cessna-150 from a suburban Madison airport, dropped fire-bombs onto the munitions plant, then landed at an obscure rural airport. The explosives failed to go off. The plant makes gunpowder used in Vietnam.

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