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Statement by
Robert D. Clark
President, University of Oregon
April 24, 1970

To the Students of the University:

I want to commend the great majority of you for your poise and restraint in these trying circumstances. The majority of you have reacted with moderation to events that might have provoked ~~at immediate behavior's~~ further action. I applaud and congratulate you.

Nonetheless
~~At the same time~~ I understand why some students were aggrieved and agitated by the presence of police on campus. I regret that inability to govern ourselves made it necessary to call for assistance from the police, ~~and~~ we must not forget that the precipitating factor was the determination of a small number of students to settle the issues by violence and force.

The ASUO Senate has asked for a general convocation of faculty and students to discuss the issues. I agree with the Senate that we need a full discussion of issues with faculty and students involved. The University is the proper place for discussion. We are committed to the principle that ideas, concepts, proposals--which are subject to careful scrutiny can the more clearly be perceived and ~~the~~ ^{more probably} true values determined. Let me suggest what I believe to be possible ways of approaching ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the discussion:

(1) I suggest that a delegation of students and the academic deans constitute a steering committee to schedule a series of student-faculty convocations in the several schools and departments at times generally available to the majority of the students of each unit. Such meetings would provide a setting in which rational and thorough discussion of the issues could take place between students and faculty.

(2) Alternatively, if the first suggestion is ^{not} acceptable, I propose that either the ASUO Senate and the Faculty Senate be reconvened, as was done earlier this year, to pursue discussion; or that special delegations of students and faculty be formed for that purpose.

I believe the organization of one, large, general convocation will not provide^a/satisfactory setting for discussion, but rather one to polarize the community and to heighten feelings already overwrought. It is important that the University provide its community with occasion for rational, deliberative, informed discussion and thorough exploration of issues.

Should students wish--if they think such an approach would be profitable-- I personally would be glad to meet with them on Saturday morning in the EMU Ballroom to allow them to make presentations to me. I should hope that the

the purpose would be to advance understanding and not to exacerbate feelings.

I am willing to take the chance if the students wish to have such a meeting.