

In this moment of great national crisis, arising from the expansion of the Vietnam war into Cambodia, and in this time of sorrow, quickened by the death of four students at Kent State, but prompted over many months by the needless and seemingly endless spilling of human blood from Vietnam to the ghettos of America, it is important that the University of Oregon express its concern and grief. I have ordered the flag lowered to half staff, have requested that silent mourning be observed in classes this morning, have wired sympathy of students and faculty to the President of Kent State; I have wired my personal support to Senator Hatfield in his effort to terminate the war or if it cannot be immediately terminated to regularize it within the constitution; I have wired President Nixon to urge an early end of hostilities and the withdrawal of armed forces from Vietnam; and I have joined other presidents of Oregon State System of Higher Education in urging President Nixon to give audience to University presidents who seek to open lines of communication between the White House and university campuses whose students feel that their points of view are being ignored.

Memorial services are planned for tomorrow afternoon at three-thirty. I urge as full attendance as is possible. Students and faculty have been conducting teach-ins and plan further sessions for the remainder of the week, including a community education campaign. I encourage the teach-ins for citizens of the community have thus far been almost universally unable to understand the depth of student feeling and despair over recent events. If we are to persuade the community, the program of events and the kind of procedures will be of utmost importance. I am personally of the opinion that action should be voluntary, that students should be free to attend classes or to absent themselves, that in view of the extraordinary situation professors should be tolerant of students who are engaged in discussion of issues

surrounding the crisis. We need to keep students on campus if we are to get constructive results. I talkd with Senator Mark Hatfield this afternoon. What is needed, he said, is to build massive public support behind a measure to force Congress to act. We must get the public and the United States to listen. Students at Cornell University in the last two days have been in the cities to collect 30,000 signatures which they have delivered to Senator Hatfield. If we can keep students on the campus and declare what many would regard as a holiday, it should be possible to get thousands of signatures petitioning Congress to end the war. This position of voluntary action, which the University has taken in the past in times of crisis is, in fact, very similar to that invoked ten days ago at Yale University by President Brewster who in response to a faculty resolution said that each student and teacher "is free to decide for himself whether to hold or to attend classes and how best to utilize the classroom opportunity." He reiterated the position again this week.

The regular agenda, in view of last month's adjourned meeting, is crowded with important business, including many items of vital concern to students. Nonetheless, I believe that the question of the University's posture toward the current crisis is of first importance. I, therefore, ask the consent of the faculty to change the order of business to permit us to proceed at once to consideration of any proposals relative to this crisis.