

Statement
by Robert D. Clark
President
University of Oregon
April 21, 1972

I fully understand the desire of students to express their outrage at the course of events in Indochina and the resumption of heavy bombing of North Vietnam in particular.

That is why I permitted the digging of symbolic bomb craters at the ROTC buildings Thursday night.

That is why I support tomorrow's Peace March as a means of making student and community views known in a non-violent and non-coercive way.

But I cannot condone the provocative, destructive and violent tactics of those who tried to take control of Thursday night's demonstration and who incited the digging at Johnson Hall.

Once more we are witnessing the efforts of a small but dedicated group of extremists to fan the spontaneous sentiments of a majority into the flames of violent and illegal action.

The elected student leaders of the University of Oregon are aware of this and are doing their best to mobilize support for constructive, as opposed to destructive, acts of protest.

I urge students to heed such counsels, and to reject these that can only provoke the kind of confrontations in which it is the innocent person, more often than not, who suffers the consequences.