

Kemeny Says 'Soul-Searching' To Replace Regular Classes

By LARRY MANLEY

College President John G. Kemeny announced last night the suspension of all normal academic activities at the College for the remainder of the week in conjunction with a nationwide university strike in protest of the expansion of the war in Southeast Asia.

Kemeny declared that today would be set aside as a "day of mourning" for four students killed yesterday in a clash with National Guardsmen at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, and said that a period of "soul-searching for what it is that the university can do as a community" would replace regular classroom activity.

In making the announcement, Kemeny said that "there comes a time when there are priorities over and beyond that which we have traditionally considered the fundamental purpose of the institution."

Kemeny urged faculty members to take advantage of the cancellations by meeting with students "to bring about collective wisdom," and called on administrators to do everything

possible to enable College employees to participate in the discussions and activities being planned for the week.

Although Kemeny said that classes for today would definitely be cancelled, he added that classes might reconvene later in the week for discussion of the escalation of the war, the constitutional issues involved in Nixon's decision, and alternate courses of action open to dissenting citizens.

When asked about the possibility of the continuation of a strike into next week and beyond, Kemeny said that he had not yet considered that possibility seriously, but that he would wait and see "what student reaction would be."

The decision was reached, according to Kemeny, after lengthy consultation with the Committee Advisory to the President, department chairmen of the faculty, and with the student Strike Steering Committee.

Kemeny said the events of the past several days had convinced him "that civilization in this country has reached a stage that I find totally intolerable," and stressed his responsibility as an individual in the decision by saying that "there is indeed a time when the community should take united action, and if there is anyone who can bring such united action about, it is the president of the College."

"As a response to these events, we are faced with a call from a large number of students for united action by the Dartmouth community to find means to express its dissatisfaction, its frustration, and to work out new methods by which a community acting in unison can have an effect on the policy of this country," he said.

In voicing his optimism towards the potential value of the cancellation, he said "we will engage in education this week, but an education of the deepest form, where a broad community can sit down together and try to formulate its views and engage in a collective exercise of formulating plans for the future.

Kemeny said he and his staff



JOHN G. KEMENY

would be available for help in formulating plans and meetings, and added that the College would lend financial support to "whatever extent that is possible."

Kemeny also announced that he had signed a statement addressed to president Nixon, deploring the expansion of the war in Southeast Asia. The statement said, "As college and university presidents in contact with large numbers of concerned Americans, we must advise you that among a major part of our students and faculty members the desire for a prompt end to American military involvement in Southeast Asia is extremely intense. We implore you to consider the incalculable dangers of an unprecedented alienation of America's youth, and to take immediate action to demonstrate unequivocally your determination to end the war quickly."

The statement requested an opportunity for the university presidents to discuss directly with Nixon the problems that it outlined.

In an attack on opponents of Kingman Brewster, president of Yale University, where a strike is entering its twelfth day, Kemeny said that the opponents "did not understand the issues, and did not have sensitivity for the needs of a great university."

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