



# THE VOICE



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## PRES. OUT OF HIDING

### Lyons meets with students

February 9, 1971, in the afternoon a cross section of the student body and Student Government representatives, at last, had an appointment to meet with President Lyons.

Determined not to be defenseless, the President surrounded himself with his administrative aids: Mr. J. C. Jones, Dean Fields, Mr. Leazer, and Mr. Roscoe. Over a dozen students plus the president and vice-president of the student body attended the meeting. The students were volunteer representatives as well as elected representatives of the various groups on campus.

The student grievances were made clear again. Nesby said, "The same problems have always existed, but the state of affairs has worsened."

It was made clear that the firing of Dr. Bishop was not the MAIN issue of the students.

The students told President Lyons that they could not see that he had helped this institution. It was the general student feeling that Lyons had hurt the school.

Lyons commented by saying that students do not hire and fire presidents of universities and would not get his resignation from this type student action and pressure. He could not "get over the audacity" of the student body asking for his resignation when they were not in a position to get it.

Lyons said that he hoped the students present at the meeting, as student leaders, would be ready to take the responsibility for repercussions! (Is this a threat?)

The president insisted that the student government representatives had never before asked him to sit down with them and discuss grievances, although the actual opposite is widely known.

Lyons wanted to know if the students expected him to fix minor grievances over - night. He made it clear that he is more concerned with long range problems.

The President spoke as little as possible in order to avoid being hung by his own rope, it seemed. He encouraged the students to go to other administrators for answers to any questions.

When asked if he would give the student body his resignation, his immediate reaction was, "No." It was clear that he would not give the STUDENTS his resignation, but it was wondered to whom he would consider giving it.

## Lyons' controls board meeting

February 11, at noon the students were given an audience with the Board of Trustees. They were not informed of the meeting until 11:45, so, as usual, they were not given ample time to be ready. The student representatives were surprised to find President Lyons present at the meeting, supported by his lawyer, a Mr. Nance. The meeting was intended to be between the students and the Board of Trustees, only.

James Nesby read the demands and grievances to the Board. One of the Board members wanted to know why the student body had not contacted them before. Nesby replied we HAD sent them a list of the problems, but it was written in a different form.

Nesby suggested a hearing of the board with the students to give the students an opportunity to present proof of the injustices suffered at the hand of Dr. Lyons. A black board member informed the student body they had stated serious things and must have proof to back them up. Another board member, who agreed with Mr. Nesby, felt the Board should grant the students a hearing.

One member of the Board suggested the students continue going to classes because they have to "maintain the institution" and "remain peaceful and orderly".

The motion was made and seconded to have a hearing in the near future. The student representatives present were informed to be specific with their points brought in at the hearing. James Nesby, Dr. Lyons, and the Chairman of the Board will determine the date of the hearing. (How is it that the "accused" is running his own "trial"? Lyons had no business being present at the meeting, much less determining the date of the hearing against him.)

President Lyons took the names of the six students present. One wonders what action he will personally take against them. Will their fate be akin to that of Dr. Bishop?

All the students stayed in the meeting until about 4:00 p.m. Before the meeting was over, James Nesby was pressured into saying he would control the students and make them go back to class. When the room was cleared, Mr. Nesby returned to speak to Lyons. He retracted his former statement, making it clear that he alone could not influence the students or MAKE them do anything they did not wish to do.

The members of the Board did most of the talking. Even the few black members of the board seemed more "establishment" than the white members, in putting down the students.

### AT MASS MEETING

## Students recommit position against odds

February 10, 1971 the student body of FSU met in force in the auditorium. James Nesby, president of the Student Government Association spoke to the group. His first comments were in appreciation of the mass student support of the effigy of President Lyons the evening of February 9. He opened, "You were beautiful last night. You so beautifully rose to the occasion. Our efforts last night were commendable, but our total efforts are yet to be won."

Mr. Nesby spoke of student responsibility for their decisions. "Lyons has not resigned, but this should make us more determined. The results depend upon how strong your commitments and determination are. This is not a game."

He continued, "this situation does not depend on James Nesby Jr., but on you as a collective body. No selective group should determine by themselves the fate and destiny of 1400 men and women."

"You must know all the facts and be knowledgeable of the state of affairs. There can be no war without sacrifice or casualties. Being involved in a war or struggle, one must not only calculate the possibility of victory, but also be aware of the possibility of losing. We cannot anticipate the joys of victory unless we accept the fears of losing. Victory is only valid if the unpleasantness of consequences is accepted."

Mr. Nesby wanted to be absolutely certain the

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## NIGHTLY BURNING

### STUDENTS BURN LYONS IN EFFIGY

The second week of February will long be remembered by the students of FSU. Each day and evening saw student gatherings and meetings in protest against President Charles Lyons. He was burned in effigy at nightly mass rallies.

February 8, 1971, the rain threatened to cancel the first burning of "Lyons". However, over 300 students gathered in the football field to see an image of Lyons hung from the football goal post and set aflame. The students gathered in a large circle and watched the stuffed image go up in flames and smoke.

February 9, after the meeting of students in the auditorium, student marshals who were appointed to keep outsiders away from the gatherings, ushered the students out of the auditorium and in a line around the dorms to the auditorium parking lot. The students were

singing, "We Shall Overcome" and "We Shall Not Be Moved." A large circle of students filled the parking lot. After a few statements quite appropriate for the situation were made, fire was set to the effigy.

After the last few ashes died out, the line moved by the President's house with the students chanting, "Lyons has got to go."

February 10, about 9:00 p.m. over 850 students filed out of the Women's Gym after the mass meeting. They walked in single file to the auditorium parking lot, gathering more students along the way. About 1000 students circled around in the parking lot. After the effigy was sent up in flames, the crowd of students cheered. The file of students marched around the campus in a show of mass support of student demands and grievances.

### Students have support of Alumni, Community

## Plan meeting with Board of Education in Raleigh

February 11, 7:00 p.m., the students met in a mass rally in the Women's Gym. About 1000 students, or more, were present. Tensions were high as the students listened to James Nesby, Dr. Charles Cherry (former president of the FSU Alumni Association), Mrs. Barbara McNeil (FSU graduate), and Carolyn Newton Stevens.

James Nesby informed the students of the results of the meeting with the Board of Trustees, earlier in the day. He told the students the Board members agreed to listen to the students "in good faith", and give them an opportunity to present their grievances and explain their problems.

Dr. Charles Cherry, who has been behind the students for a long time, and aware of the problems with Dr. Lyons, spoke to the students. He gave his support to their cause. He warned the students to be aware of the narrow attitude of the Board of Trustees, and realize that it contained some "Oreo-type cookies," (black on the outside, but white on the inside). He said the "Board is pregnant with Lyons and too moralistic to have an abortion." The students cheered loudly at the statements made by Dr. Cherry, which summarized the general student feeling.

Mrs. Barbara McNeil, an FSU graduate, is also in support of the students. She told the student body if they gave up now, Lyons would run everything indefinitely! In that case, the students "would not have a prayer in the world." She said, "This is one time you have to stand up for yourselves, against the pressure of parents and friends." The students let their support of the statements she made be known. Applause came from the floor, as the students were more determined than ever to stand by their convictions and not be run over by an administration controlled in EVERY department by the little dictator, Charlie - A -

Carolyn Newton Stevens, SGA Vice-president, informed the students the statement by Dr. Lyons concerning the cut-off of financial aid is definitely a threat! It would hurt over 75% of the students on the FSU campus, if put into effect by Lyons. She told the students it was a chance they would have to take. She gave the students several alternatives: (1) give up, return to class, and admit defeat; (2) return to class, BUT meet with the Board again in a hearing against Lyons; (3) continue to be "sick" until the Board presents us with its ultra-matum (in this case, the students would only be waiting around to be killed, like Jews waiting their turn in lines moving toward the ovens -- slowly, but surely); or (4) send a mass delegation of students to Raleigh to speak with the Board of Higher Education. The alumni members have already given the student

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