

FROM University Relations
The University of Toledo

Jerry L. Morrow
531-1451, Ext. 214

May 19, 1965

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

Dr. William S. Carlson, president of the University of Toledo, devoted his address at TU's annual Honors Day program to the subject of student unrest, demonstrations and protests, and urged that "the increasing commitment on the part of American youth should be encouraged rather than condemned. They have a right to be taken seriously."

In past decades, he said, American college students have failed to show any noticeable interest in the issues of the time. Even in the 1950s, Dr. Carlson said, "college teachers complained that their students were indifferent to politics and social causes."

But, he added, "Looking back over the past year, there is scarcely an American campus where some protest movement hasn't erupted. The tumult has ranged from the firing of professors on several campuses, the free speech movement at Berkeley and the Ohio State University's controversial campus rules on speakers, to the cheating at the Air Force Academy.

"Today's students are ventilating their idealism, they enjoy direct action as in demonstration and protest marches--some may even move in the direction of political explosiveness found in Latin American universities.

"Certainly," he said, "I hope things will not go that far, because rebellion of youth can be subverted to promote unworthy if not sinister causes and more than once student rebellion--in Saigon, Tokyo, Korea, Latin American countries and elsewhere--has run amuck. In the light of poverty in our society, the insecurity, the threat of war and the presence of violence, there is the ever present danger that students may become unwitting pawns in the hands of clever manipulators."

(more)

"Today's students, members of an affluent society, face a nation with unsolved social problems and a world over which hangs that modern version of the Sword of Damocles--the shadow of the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile," he said.

"An approach to the problem of student unrest must begin with the recognition that it cannot be ignored," Dr. Carlson said. "It must be faced. Its causes are too many and too deeply rooted for it simply to go away."

"It is safe to predict that the American student never will be the same again. We can anticipate his protesting those things that outrage his sense of justice. He will stand up to be counted when he senses rightly or wrongly that human rights are at stake--sometimes wisely, sometimes rashly--he will nevertheless make his voice heard. It is well to recall that among the young there now is a genuine awakening to a deeply felt moral and social concern." And, he added, "they have a right to be taken seriously."

"Instead of our persistence in prolonging the anguish over regulations that deal with the how and the where of political activity by students, we need to concern ourselves with wide ranging discussion over the purpose of education and the means of improving the internal communications between students, faculty and administration."

"This means," Dr. Carlson said, "institutional freedom from intimidation and interference by all pressure groups....The world is crying for leaders with the imagination, energy and courage to break through the old patterns and to translate knowledge into courses of action which will lead to desirable ends."