

# Protesters Deaf to Wharton

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State Journal Writer

Negotiations Wednesday between Michigan State University and East Lansing officials and representatives of demonstrators who blocked E. Grand River Avenue traffic Tuesday night looked promising for only about an hour.

MSU President Clifton R. Wharton Jr. announced Wednesday four concessions the university was willing to make in a talk to 4,000 to 5,000 young people gathered at Beaumont Tower.

BUT SHORTLY after his departure about 4:15 p.m., there were cries of "On to Grand River" despite attempts by Mayor Wilbur B. Brookover and a few student leaders to keep the crowd on campus.

Nine demands had been presented by the loose alliance of about 15 organizations who said they would stop demonstrating only if their terms were met.

"In all candor," Wharton told the crowd, "you know and I know there is nothing we can do about some of your requests." (He referred to demands about U.S. policy concerning Vietnam).

BUT, HE said, he was "in all good faith" willing to work toward a solution of four of the demands.

He said he would contact all members of the MSU Board of Trustees to see if they would be willing to adopt a resolution as an institution condemning the war in Vietnam.

He hinted that if such a resolution were OK'd, the charges

against those recently arrested while protesting military recruiting at the Placement Bureau might be dropped—another demand.

WHARTON ALSO agreed to set aside Friday for discussions on campus about the Vietnam war. He emphasized, however, that the university would not be shut down and that missed classes would have to be made up.

A third concession was that the university television station WMSB would give representatives of demonstrators a chance to tell their views.

"Finally," Wharton told the crowd, "we have discussed a great deal whether or not the existing policies of this university do or do not conform with the issues as we see them."

He mentioned practices of the Placement Bureau and the university purchasing policy as two discussion areas.

ONE DEMAND was that the university stop buying from war contractors.

Wharton said that he and Mayor Brookover would appoint a committee to review several key areas "to see whether or not these policies are justified."

After thanking the crowd for the chance to speak, he left, accompanied by Jack Breslin, executive vice president; Robert Perrin, vice president for university relations; Provost John C. Cantlon; Dean of Students Eldon Nonnamaker; and presidential assistant Elliott G. Ballard.

MAYOR BROOKOVER then said:

"We hope you will conduct yourselves in such a way that you will not be hurt and there

will be no one arrested:

"My primary concern is to help (but) I cannot guarantee at this time that there will be no police action."

Later, Wharton told The State Journal, "I do not know what would have stopped them (from going to Grand River.) I think there are many students who would really very much like to follow through on the four proposals I made.

"THERE ARE others who felt that there should be more concessions and more agreements and more dramatic action:

"I think it is important to realize the very high degree of frustration which many of them feel, in that they once again see no attainable objective, even a modest one in terms of what they would like to see happening in the war.

"Until recently I think there was a general feeling that the United States was winding down and pulling out," Wharton continued. "Suddenly this changed overnight and they are back at the level of frustration that they had two years ago."

ONE OF the negotiators for the loosely allied demonstrators, Mitchell Stengel, associate professor of economics and of the Center for Urban Affairs, told the crowd before Wharton's arrival:

"I think if they meet these demands, we have an obligation not to 'trash' Grand River. We have had damn good cooperation from East Lansing and if President Wharton's statement shows we will get delivery of what we want then we have an obligation not to take over Grand River."

Stengel pleaded for nonviolence because "violence only reinforces the myth that we are the violent ones."

OTHERS WHO had met in City Hall Wednesday morning and, briefly, in the afternoon for the negotiations, were MSU students Kip Waldo, Tom Loudon, Terry Luke, Barbara McMullen, Alan Scott, Charles Massoglia, Terry Ehlers, Ron Rosebaum, Len Drinko, and John Royal; Bill Bunt, East Lansing High School senior, and the Rev. Warren Day of the United Ministries in Higher Education.

EAST LANSING City Manager John M. Patriarche commented during a break in negotiations that:

"You feel like you are wrestling with a spider web. Nobody is the leader and nobody has control."



—State Journal Photos by GINGER SHARP

Flanked by School Officials, Wharton Speaks to Demonstrators Wednesday