

FSM -- ON KERR'S MANIPULATIONS

Although last Saturday's newspaper headlines proclaimed "U.C. Student Strike a Flop", both the administration and the students knew better. For several hours, in fact, the U.C. public information office released figures that the strike was 85% effective. These figures were finally suppressed and no mention of them appeared in the press. President Kerr was forced to recognize that an overwhelming part of the student body and of the faculty were solidly behind the FSM position. Faculty members, upset by the Administration's tactics and gaining courage from their own students, at last began to form opposition groups within the Academic Senate. Last Thursday, in the most dramatic meeting since Loyalty Oath days, they led an unofficial group of 900 faculty in demanding amnesty for the student protests and a satisfactory advocacy policy from the Regents. Tomorrow they will present stronger proposals to the Academic Senate. Their new movement could conceivably result in effective autonomy for the faculty.

But prospects for their success are dim. For years President Kerr has effectively controlled the Academic Senate by a hand-picked group of faculty, like Professors Scalapino and Lipset, whose personal ambitions and professional concerns make their interests those of the Administration rather than of the faculty. In the past, back-stage manipulation has prevented an organized opposition from forming.

By Friday, it was clear that on the issues of Free Speech and Free Political Expression, the tide had turned. Kerr immediately began to act. Realizing that his earlier repressive stance was no longer tenable, and desiring to maintain his position as the absolute power on campus (i.e., to keep the Academic Senate from re-emerging as an independent force) he developed an ingenious plan. With the aid of Professor Scalapino, and in consultation with Governor Brown -- the man who called out the cops -- he set out to undercut the Academic Senate. Their plan was to come out with a proposal strong enough to take the wind out of the FSM, weak enough to be acceptable to the Regents, and to come out with it quickly enough to pre-empt the contemplated actions of the Academic Senate. Furthermore, Kerr found it necessary to give his proposal some semblance of legitimacy; so the proposal comes from a group which he knew he could persuade to produce the proposal he wanted -- the Departmental Chairmen. They are sincere and honest men, deeply concerned with the issues, yet Kerr was able to persuade them that these slight gains are the most that could be expected. The University was in danger of losing funds provided by the State Legislature.

Many of Kerr's closest associates are departmental chairmen and in most departments, the chairmen are essentially faculty administrators. These men are closest in spirit and outlook to the Administration. They live in the world of grants and funds rather than the world of academic or political freedom. They are the members of the faculty most sensitive to

Kerr's threat that unless the controversy is resolved in the manner he proposes, the state legislature will withhold University funds. Kerr did not tell them that State Senator George Miller, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the ranking member of the Senate Education Committee, has said that legislative appropriations will be kept "...entirely separate from political occurrences on and off the campus," and that he resents the implications to the contrary which have been made by Kerr.

The final step in Kerr's plan is to have all classes cancelled from 9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon so that the effectiveness of the FSM strike will be unassessable. Then from 11:00 to 12:00 he and Scalapino will appear before the campus community, present their proposals in the name of their so-called faculty committee, and urge all students to return to classes.

All the information we have so far reported has been gathered by FSM intelligence, and it is possible that the details of the plan may be changed. (They have changed several times over the week-end, but we believe that those so-far reported are final.) It is not yet certain what Kerr's proposal will be. It will probably include a statement that no on-campus disciplinary action will be taken against students for activity connected with the FSM up to and including noon today. It may also include either some liberalization of the rules, or some overtures that they will be liberalized. It will not (we believe) include any promise that charges against the students will be dropped. Although Clark Kerr does not formally have the power to drop the charges, he does have enough political power with the aid of his accomplice, Pat Brown, to indirectly make sure that they are dropped. It has been leaked to FSM that if the controversy on campus subsides, that is, if we give in to his proposal, the charges will be dropped.

We will not submit to the blackmail. We will not allow anyone to bargain with the futures of 800 students. The students took their stand on principle, and we are still standing on these principles. The FSM position has been clear. We will evaluate Kerr's proposal on the basis of its merits, and we will do it at a noon rally.

Sometime after this leaflet has been written, the final form of the department chairmen's proposal will be drafted. Between 8 A.M. and 9 A.M. today copies of the proposal will be picked up by department chairmen; between 9 & 10 the chairmen will try to sell it to the faculty, between 10 & 11 the faculty will try to sell it to the grads and TAs, and between 11 & 12 Kerr and Scalapino will try and sell it to the students. At noon, The FSM will respond.

The issues have not changed since the start of the semester. They are threefold:

- 1) Administrative policies must not affect the content of speech or tend to impose prior restraints on speech;
- 2) Administrative regulations must impose no unnecessary restrictions upon the form of speech;
- 3) The students should have a voice in the enactment and interpretation of the regulations affecting them.