

Students Plan To Lay Protest Before Chandler

1,000 From Morehead May Go To Capital Today; Ousted Dean Raps 'Dirty Politics'

MOREHEAD, Ky., May 24 (AP)—Student leaders tonight made plans to transport up to 1,000 members of the student body of Morehead State Teachers College to Frankfort Thursday to lay before Gov. A. B. Chandler their protest over loss of Dean of Men Clarence Nickell.

The students, assembled in morning convocation, heard a heated debate between President H. A. Babb and the dean, at which Nickell charged his failure to be re-elected to the faculty and dismissal of two other employees was due to "dirty politics."

Students became aroused Monday night on learning of the board of regents' action and began the day Tuesday by padlocking classrooms and by demonstration parades, finally returning to their studies when the president said he and the faculty would meet with them this morning.

When the convocation was opened President Babb announced that the meeting was being held because there might be some misunderstanding about his announcement, but he was "under no obligation to do so" because the students had "not returned to their classes as requested."

Then he said: "You are dismissed."

Immediately James Stuart of Greenup county, who said he was elected leader of the protesting students at a meeting Tuesday night, took the rostrum and shouted:

"We are not dismissed. All those who want to remain stay seated."

Dean Nickell came forward and for 30 minutes spoke to the assemblage:

Ousted Dean Speaks

"It had been charged that I am seeking to get President Babb's job. If this had been true I could have had his job in 1936 when the governor ordered the resignations of all heads of state institutions.

"I pleaded with the governor that no change be made at Morehead because it would hurt the college which had just passed through a crisis. President Babb is here today because I spoke for him on that occasion

Ostracism Attempt Charged

"President Babb has attempted to ostracize my wife and me by ordering faculty members and employees not to speak to us and not to invite us to any social functions. A small group headed by the president got together two years ago and sought to squeeze me out.

"I have never been gunning for his job and I am not seeking it now. This move to get rid of me is nothing but dirty politics."

The dean said he extended an invitation to President Babb and members of the faculty and student body to go to Frankfort Thursday morning and appear before the governor.

Stuart announced plans for providing transportation for "up to 1,000" of the student body to Frankfort. He said they planned to leave at 7:30 a. m. (C.S.T.).

President Babb, asking the students to remain "so you can hear

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Students Will Make Protest

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both sides of the controversy," followed Dean Nickell on the rostrum and related the accomplishments and developments at the school since he assumed the presidency.

"When I became president of Morehead in November, 1936, there were 550 members of the student body; this year there are 1,055," he said.

Babb Charges Falsehood

"Nickell's statement he could have had the presidency in 1936 is a falsehood. At that time I held a four-year contract given me before Governor Chandler came into office.

"My predecessor, Dr. John Howard Payne, was broken in health and spirit because he had been brow-beaten and chagrined by the same group that now is trying to undermine me.

"Dr. Payne told me when I came to Morehead as president that Nickell had been forced down his throat by Senator A. W. Young (founder of the college, now dead).

"Dr. Payne told me he protested to the senator but the latter said that Nickell 'has just been elected to the state senate and we will have to give him a job in order to control him.

"I have tried to get along with Mr. Nickell. I have raised his salary from \$2,100 to \$3,600 a year and further I have contributed personally \$100 to his unsuccessful campaign for Congress when he ran against Virgil Chapman."

'In Cahoots' With Editor

President Babb said Nickell was "in cahoots" with Jack Wilson. Wilson, editor of the Rowan County News, was beaten several months ago by two sons of President Babb after he (Wilson) had published one of a series of editorials attacking the Babb administration of college affairs. The boys and a companion paid fines of \$5 each and costs.

"Nickell, Wilson and others have been after my job with attempts to undermine me with falsehoods," the president charged.

"They went behind my back when I was in New Orleans two years ago to have Judge W. A. Caskey of West Liberty put on the board of regents. They succeeded but Judge Caskey turned out to be honest and voted as his conscience dictated and they could not con-

trol him as they thought they could."

Dr. Babb concluded by saying that he was ready to discuss the situation with any recognized group representing the students.

CHANDLER SAYS HE WILL WELCOME STUDENTS

FRANKFORT, Ky., May 24 (P)—"Never step into a fast ball; it'll come to you anyway," Gov. A. B. Chandler said today when advised that a group of Morehead College students, aroused over the letting out of their dean of men, would "march on Frankfort."

"I'll be glad to see them, of course," Chandler added, laughing at his baseball phrase, "but until then I have nothing to say."

Dissension between President H. A. Babb and Dean Clarence E. Nickell of Morehead came to a head Monday when the college board of regents followed Babb's recommendations and failed to re-elect Nickell and several others.

Babb was re-elected by the regents last winter for a term ending in July, 1940, and Harry W. Peters, state superintendent of public education and ex-officio chairman of the Morehead regents, said "the board simply decided to let Babb run the college, as long as he was its president. At least that's my idea of what happened."

Chandler gave no indication of whether he would intercede to have Nickell re-elected, which would require another board meeting. Nickell was understood to be favored by the governor. Under the ouster act Chandler could replace enough board members to carry out his will, but Superintendent Peters, who as ex-officio chairman would have to call the board meeting, indicated he favored letting the matter alone. He and Chandler have differed on many policy matters before.

Honor Marion Miley Today

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cance, and which have landed her a place on the United States Curtis Cup team.

The entire program of the Optimist Club today will be devoted to Miss Miley. Mayor Wilson will be a speaker, as will Neville Dunn, sports editor of The Herald. The latter will recount briefly Miss Miley's achievements in tournament play against the best women players the nation has produced. The luncheon will begin at 12:15