

PRESS RELEASE
November 10, 2009

PUBLIC FORUM

THE NOTRE DAME 10
NOVEMBER 18, 1969 - NOVEMBER 18, 2009
*"Being a Christian in a Catholic University in times of war:
has 40 years changed the conversation?"*

When: Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 7:30-9:00PM

Where: Center for Social Concerns, Geddes Hall

South Bend, IN: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 will mark the 40th anniversary of an important event in the life of Notre Dame. On November 18, 1969, 10 students were suspended from the university under the provision of the famous "15-minute rule" after a demonstration in the administration building protesting the presence of recruiters from Dow Chemical and the CIA. The 15-minute rule, announced by Fr. Ted Hesburgh earlier that year, was viewed nationally as a tough response to student protests. "Disruptive" students were to be given 15 minutes to "cease and desist", and if they failed to disperse, would be suspended. If they remained 5 minutes longer, they would be expelled and subject to arrest.

This was at the height of the United States' involvement in Vietnam. Dow was the maker of napalm and defoliants, including Agent Orange, used in Vietnam against civilian as well as military targets. The CIA was believed by many to have been involved in the efforts to overthrow Salvador Allende, the democratically elected president of Chile, a belief later proven to be true, as well as deeply involved in the Vietnam War.

Prior to the Nov. 18 protest, the Student Senate had passed a resolution requiring any recruiting agency to submit to an open question-and-answer forum to discuss its practices and policies, so long as a sufficient number of students petitioned for such a forum to occur. The purpose of the Senate resolution was not to bar recruiting on campus, but to expose the values and beliefs represented by these agencies and companies to the same scrutiny to which other values and beliefs are exposed in university life. Despite a petition for such an open forum presented to the administration, they refused to make arrangements for such a dialogue between recruiters and students (although some recruiters were willing), thus setting the stage for the Nov. 18 action.

Not only is Notre Dame a great research and teaching university, it also stands for Catholic higher education in America. Thus, the issue was not merely academic freedom, it was also Notre Dame's mission, as a Catholic university, to explore moral values. The demonstration stemmed from the belief that students had a right to ask whether they were being recruited for jobs that were consistent with the teachings of Jesus or the Catholic Church or their personal consciences.

Following the suspensions, weeks of public forums and protests in sympathy for the "Notre Dame 10" took place. Several faculty came to the assistance of the students, including the drafting of a written "defense" that was presented at a public appeals hearing where the students presented their legal and

moral position. The judiciary board overseeing that meeting recommended that lesser punishments be imposed, a conclusion ultimately rejected by the university. Most of the suspended students returned to complete their degrees, but 3 did not.

Although this action was modest in magnitude to subsequent antiwar events, such as the Strike in the spring of 1970 that brought many campuses to a halt following the invasion of Cambodia and the shootings of students at Jackson State and Kent State, the "Dow-CIA Protest" and its aftermath raised unique issues for Notre Dame in its role as a Catholic University with ties to military and industrial entities that were implicated in the conduct of the war.

On Wednesday, November 18, 2009 former members of the Notre Dame 10, Mark Mahoney and John Eckenrode, will join two former Notre Dame faculty members Dr. Carl Estabrook and Father Emmanuel Charles McCarthy for a forum to discuss the events of 1969. They also hope to reflect with the audience on the relevance of these issues to Notre Dame today and the challenges inherent in maintaining Christian moral positions within a university during times of continuing war and violence.

These former students and faculty, as well as other alumni will be on campus earlier in the day for a vigil at the administration building at 11:00 AM. They will be available to have lunch at LaFortune Center at noon with any interested persons. There will be a Mass at 4:30 which will be concelebrated by Fr. Hesburgh and Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy. Attendees for the Mass of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation should convene in the café of the Center for Social Concerns, Geddes Hall, at 4:15.

All members of the Notre Dame community are invited to attend any or all of these events.

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11am - Vigil - Administration Building

Noon - Lunch - Lafortune

1:30 – 4pm Members of the Notre Dame 10 will be available to address various campus classes and/or organizations. Those interested should contact John Cox through his e-mail address – jcfromnd@aol.com

4:30 – The Mass of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation. Concelebrated by Fr. Ted Hesburgh and Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy. Attendees should convene in the Coffeehouse of Geddes Hall at 4:15.

6:30 - Informal dinner (pizza) in the Center for Social Concerns

7:30 - 9:00 Panel discussion in the Center for Social Concerns -- Geddes Hall Coffeehouse

- Prof. Carl Estabrook, a member of the Notre Dame faculty in 1969, will introduce the discussion presenting the historical framework for the protest.
- Mark Mahoney and John Eckenrode, two members of the Notre Dame 10 will offer their own introductory remarks followed by questions from Prof. Estabrook and an open audience Q&A.
- Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy will conclude.