

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN 1857

NORMAL, ILLINOIS 61761

For Thurs, P 4m

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

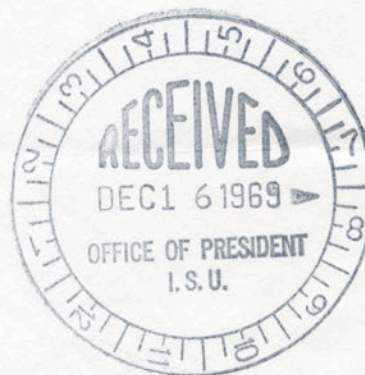
Telephone: 309/438-2213

December 15, 1969

TO: Samuel E. Braden
President

R. R. Bond
Dean of the Faculties

FROM: Joe W. Kraus *Joe*



Here is a report by Mr. Capasso, administrative assistant, on the disturbance in the Library on December 11. I was in Chicago attending a meeting of the Executive Board of the Illinois Library Association.

Mr. Jackson, Mr. Capasso, and the other members of the staff handled this affair with admirable restraint and excellent judgment. Damage to Library materials was insignificant and normal service was restored within an hour. Security personnel were on the scene promptly and members of the Library staff made no attempt to apprehend the students who were creating the disturbance.] ←

We will see that male members of the staff are on duty in public service areas during the coming week.

JWK/hmf
enclosure

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 12, 1969

TO: Joe Kraus

FROM: John A. Capasso

1. 3:15 p.m. (12/11/69) my office was alerted by Lt. Abner of the Security Division pertaining to the fact that an informant indicated that a group of students had planned to enter our library and either check a volume of books out, or throw books from our shelves, and in general, disrupt our operations. This had been planned to begin at 4:00 p.m.

2. Mr. Jackson and the Staff members were informed of this during a meeting in Mr. Jackson's office. At that time, our emergency plan was to attempt to conduct business on a normal basis, check books out according to procedure, remove student assistants from public service areas, or be certain a staff member would be with them at these points - we also made our exit control people aware of the situation and provided assistance at each point.

3. 3:50 p.m. groups of black students began entering the building and evidently placed themselves in most areas. At approximately 4:00 p.m. they began pulling books off shelves in most levels, Reserve Room, Fine Arts, Teaching Material Center and several catalog drawers were pulled out and dropped to the floor.

4. Security representatives and Normal police came immediately and at 4:15, I was instructed by Security to lock our Campus entrance doors - simultaneously School Street doors were locked and all patrons were kept within the building. A number of people were vocally demonstrating at the Campus entrance - they wanted to be admitted into the building.

5. In order to leave the building, patrons were required to show identification cards to Security representatives - at this point, all books were examined in accordance with procedure - Security recorded all names and card numbers of those people in the building. Student assistants were permitted to leave when properly identified by John Capasso.

6. Between 4:30 and 4:45 p.m. the building was evacuated of employees and student assistants who had completed work shifts. At this time, members of the library staff began placing books on the shelves. Student assistants volunteered to remain and help do this, and in a reasonable time, things had returned to a normal basis.

7. Security representatives remained in the building with library staff. The stacks were closed, and we operated in this manner from this point on. Exit Control people were dismissed. All personal service areas were maintained.

8. The building was reopened to the public at approximately 4:45 p.m. Security representatives remained in the building and close to the building for the remainder of the evening hours. Public service areas were utilized by patrons during evening hours - in light of the circumstances, it was felt that our volume of patrons was less than we have had, but more than we expected.

wb

cc: Mr. Jackson