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Drug Store Looted In School Protest

By HENRY McNULTY

About 60 Hartford Public High School students overturned stands of merchandise and stole \$400 worth of watches in a drug store near the school Friday morning.

They were part of a group of about 100 students who refused to attend classes Friday, who said they were protesting U.S.

involvement in Cambodia and the killing of four Kent State University students by National Guardsmen.

An HPHS spokesman said the students began to gather in front of the school between 9 and 9:30 a.m. There were reports that several students from Trinity College urged the teenagers not to attend classes.

About 9:30, the group began to move towards the Hartford Seminary, which is four blocks from HPHS. Police said they dispersed a large crowd from in front of Carton Drug Store, 294 Farmington Ave. A policeman was also stationed at Farmington Avenue and Forest Street because motorists had complained their cars were being hit and kicked by the students.

Police were called back to Carton Drug about 11 a.m. They said a group of about 60 HPHS students had entered the store, had overturned racks of merchandise and had stolen \$400 worth of watches and clocks.

They arrested Steven Lobe, 19, of 9 Willard St., on a charge of breach of the peace.

Hartford Seminary President James N. Gettemy met the students as they arrived at the seminary about 10 a.m. The students "requested the use of space to assemble and discuss national issues," Gettemy said.

Gettemy said the students had not previously asked seminary administrators for permission to use seminary rooms for a discussion, nor had they been invited by the seminary.

"Given this unanticipated confrontation, it seemed to me the only peaceful course of action was to accede to their demand," Gettemy said in a written statement issued Friday afternoon.

"The Hartford Seminary Student Association . . . did volunteer to provide discussion leaders for these students while here," he said. The large group gathered in Hosmer Auditorium in Hosmer Hall, where they listened to several speakers.

Special assistant to the dean at the seminary Richard T. Nolan urged the group to return to their classes. "I told them we would try to respond in the most

reasonable and sensible way, but could not condone their action," Nolan said.

U.S. Senatorial candidate Joseph Duffey, who is director of the Center for Urban Ethics at the Seminary, told the group many of their grievances were just ones.

Duffey reportedly told the group action requires solid strategy and violence is not the most strategic method.

An unidentified young man reportedly told the crowd, "I thought I'd come here to tell you how to organize, but you ought to go to Trinity and tell us how to organize."

Orderly, Not Quiet

The discussions at the seminary were orderly, if not quiet. Petitions were circulated calling for the impeachment of President Nixon, Vice President Agnew and Mayor Uccello.

None of the petitions were approved by the seminary administration.

Seminary faculty member Robert C. Batchelder told the group. "You are not alone today; there are over 400 colleges and schools in the country doing the same thing . . . your efforts are going to make a difference."

At the Hartford Public High School Annex, 110 Washington St., about 50 students apparently also left the school to go to the seminary.

Executive Vice Principal Thomas V. Keenan said he persuaded a large group of students to enter the annex at the start of classes. However, after about six or seven minutes of class time, a fire alarm was pulled and the building was evacuated.

There was no fire, and when the students had filed back inside the building about 50 were missing, according to Keenan. He said he assumed they had left to join the other students at the seminary.

Inside both HPHS buildings, the remaining students reportedly were orderly. No students walked out of classes at either building, according to school officials. HPHS has about 3,250 students, including those at the annex.

Keenan said he will meet today with HPHS Principal Dr. J. Duncan Yetman to discuss what disciplinary action, if any, will be taken against the students who did not attend school Friday.