

Blacks Said Ready to Quit Ferris College

BIG RAPIDS (AP) — "The whites can have this school," said Ron Snead of Grand Rapids, president of the Ferris State College NAACP student chapter and one of 13 students arrested during a racial outbreak.

Snead was exonerated of involvement in the incident, but 12 other students—three whites and nine blacks—were arraigned Tuesday in district court for unlawful assembly. All stood mute and were placed on \$200 bond each.

The charge, a felony under the act approved last year by the Legislature, carries up to a five-year prison sentence, a \$5,000 fine or both.

Charged were Willie Louis Stone of Albion, a former campus NAACP president; William C. White, who gave a campus address; Timothy R. Baker, Kalamazoo; Gregory A. Granger, Shelby; Benjamin E. McQueen, Ferndale;

Michael J. Gibson and John D. Miller, Detroit; Jackie Estes, Big Rapids; William E. Kilgore, Grand Rapids; William Lett, Lansing; William W. Howell, Pontiac, and Edward P. Johnson, Battle Creek.

Snead, 25, said he plans to transfer to another Michigan college next year because of the situation at Ferris state.

"We tried to get help from the Legislature at Lansing after the last incident," Snead said. "But it wasn't successful."

President Victor F. Spathelf, who weathered confrontations between several hundred black and white students three months ago, said that at least six more students are subject to disciplinary action following Tuesday's battle.

In April the college board of control had placed 261 students on disciplinary probation, including either possible sus-

pension or expulsion, for being involved in the takeover of an administration building.

Regarding the clash, Spathelf said, "I did not have any prior warning. There is this hard core group of blacks and hard core group of whites difficult to reach with reason and understanding."

A white student last week was expelled after printing a dormitory newspaper which in part said "blacks ate like pigs." In other incidents, a confederate flag in a dormitory room was torn down, Ku Klux Klan signs sprang up throughout the campus and a few black and white students had fist fights.

All these incidents, Spathelf said, apparently ignited the latest racial clash.

"It takes just a thoughtless triggering incident, like the paper, to set this off," he said. "It's an unpredictable thing."

But he noted progress has been made in race relations saying that a Negro counsellor and a Biafran instructor in English have been hired effective this fall. They will be the first black members on a staff of more than 400 whites.

Also, a black security officer has been hired and interviews with six more blacks are scheduled to be completed by June 15.

"This is a hard way to have to do it," Spathelf said. "But progress is being made."

When asked if he has considered resigning, Dr. Spathelf said, "For what? For why?"

"It doesn't operate that way. Someone has to stay with the problems and solve them," he said.

Black enrollment at Ferris, however, has dwindled from 360 last fall and many still attending don't expect to return.