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1 October 1970

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AT MADISON
Prospects for 1970-71

The Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin has seen more than its share of disruption in the past several years. Columnist Charles Bartlett writing recently in the Star reported that the university board of regents feels that the administration is now reaping the harvest of past acquiescence. Since at least spring 1967 the Madison campus has experienced direct anti-CIA demonstrations, the usual black student demands, a strike by teaching assistants lasting several weeks, street demonstrations, police and National Guard mobilization (the Guard has been called in three times since last September) and severe bloody and destructive political terrorism.

The targets at Wisconsin have been the same as elsewhere, Vietnam, Government research, curfew regulations (now virtually non-existent), racism, repression, student participation in university management, etc. To attack these targets, however, radical leftist students and teachers have exerted more pressure in terms of disruption and violence than at most other places. Last fall Chancellor Young predicted a brighter future but it didn't happen. This year predictions are scarcer but more pessimistic. In the 5 October issue of U.S. News and World Report, Madison Mayor William Dyke paints a very gloomy picture for the short haul, too gloomy perhaps.

To further complicate the university's problems, Madison has a large "street people" community, and according to Mayor Dyke a very great narcotics problem is centered at the university.

Although Dyke is pessimistic, there are several bright signs. The Wisconsin Legislature has recently passed several laws designed to punish disrupters. Madison city police will play a campus role this year for the first time. Indications are that the city, State and Federal Government intend to bring about a peaceful university environment with or without a determined and forceful administration.

The path the university has traveled in recent years provides a sandy foundation at best for a projection of optimism. A campus population of 30,000 students and several thousand more teachers and administrators with more than its share of radicals will continue using any available cause for the venting of radical righteous indignation. There will be more "anti-anything" type demonstrations but further polarization is probably over.

In spite of all that has happened at Madison, a cautious prediction of optimism is still possible. Though theoretical, the August bombing of the Army Mathematics Research Center could herald the defeat of radical extremism on the University of Wisconsin campus. Had the revolution been winning there, the explosion might not have occurred. Further, such an event may well have the effect of defusing and moderating campus elements. The hardware is probably softer than it was before. With the memory of the 24th of August it will be tougher for radicals to gather support for major disruptive efforts.

Practically speaking, 30,000 young adults and their parents regard Madison as a reasonably safe and academically and culturally rewarding place to live and learn. Of the 30,000, probably no one will be killed and very few injured this year or any year. The creed of the prudent student at Wisconsin as elsewhere is "be alert to the dangers and do not become unwittingly involved with those factions of disruption that are recognizable."

Since Wisconsin has a history of anti-CIA sentiment, any connection with the Agency should be held rather closely.