NMU Grants Students' Demand For 'Holiday'

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John X. Jamrich, president, and group of Northern Michigan University students are shown beside one of the bonfires set in Kaye Ave. during demonstration outside Jamrich's residence.

The students presented him with demand for a "holiday" Friday to permit them to hold memorial services for students killed at Kent State College in Ohio.

"holiday" demand today. It was reported that 20 or so students stayed in the vicinity all night.

Confusion Over Protests

Much of the discussion between Jamrich and the students was over confusion by the demonstrators that their demand be granted immediately and confusion over just what protests were being presented to the administration.

Protests over the draft, Army, ROTC, the Vietnam conflict and the Cambodian border crossings, as well as the Kent State incident, all were heard, but a petition presented to the NMU president, reportedly containing 2,100 signatures, referred specifically to the shooting of students at Kent State.

Prior to presentation of the petition to Jamrich, one of the student leaders, Charles Steen of Grosse Pointe, declared: "Like I'm going to give this cat 2,100 signatures and see what he does with it."

Kevin O'Donnell, Tampa, Fla., new president of the Associated Students of Northern Michigan University, promised that he "personally" would present the petition to the governing board and ask the board for a day off from classes.

Wasted Immediate Decision

Many of the students kept insisting that Jamrich make an immediate decision on their demand, that faculty-student discussions begin immediately, that the meeting be moved to the fieldhouse so students taking part in the demonstration could observe and hear the discussions.

"We're here in mass saying what we want for ourselves," one of the students said. "We don't need the Academic Senate committee." Another declared: "We feel we got a right to say what we're saying now and we demand to be heard now."

Jamrich was just as adamant that he would not act under duress. Referring to the December, 1968, all-in-fusing the issues!

Jamrich said he had been counseled by some persons to leave his residence for safety reasons. He told of receiving threats that his home would be stoned, but said he and members of his family would remain there.

Demands also were made that Jamrich write a letter to President Nixon condemning the Kent State shootings as well as the Cambodian border.