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Considers Charges Serious

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UCLA Holds Open Hearing for Five Accused in Melee

BY CHARLES BILLINGER

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Considers Charges Serious

Dean of Students Byron H. Atkinson considered the charges against the two young women and three young men serious enough to possibly warrant suspension or dismissal from UCLA.

The five students were generally charged with taking part in what Atkinson's office called a "disruptive sit-in" against Dow recruiters at the Student Placement Center and having to be forcibly removed from the center by campus police.

Palmer, a key figure in the demonstrations, is additionally charged with exhorting others to take part in disruptive activities at the center, with leading a demonstration, with participating in the burning of an effigy, and with unauthorized use of a loudspeaker system outside the center.

In his opening comments at the session attended by about 80 spectators, Asst. Prof. Lawrence G. Sager, one of three members of UCLA's law faculty serving as legal counsel for the five students, declared:

"The important thing is not what..."
HEARING

Continued from Page B
the five students before
you today and several
hundred students on the
campus did, but why they
did these things.
"These students were
acting in protest of the
presence on this campus
of Dow recruiters. We
believe it is most impor­
tant you understand why
they did so."

He said the "behavior of
the students can only be
understood in the context
of the deep and abiding
moral convictions which
prompted it and with an
appreciation of what they
hoped to accomplish by
that behavior."

Sager insisted that the
students "through their
acts have not impaired
this university. They have
not disrupted the func­
tions of the university.

Prof. Richard A. Was­
erstrom and Acting As­
sociate Prof. Leon Letwin
were the other two de­
fense attorneys.

Donald Reidhaar, asso­
ciate counsel for the UC
regents assigned to UCLA
matters, in handling the
case for the prosecution,
contended the students
staged a disruptive sit-in
after being asked to leave
the Student Placement
center.

William Warren, profes­
sor of law and chairman of
the eight-member Student
Conduct Committee, said
members of the committee,
composed of six faculty
members and two stu­
dents, would take the mat­
ter under advisement and
report their decision to
Chancellor Franklin D.
Murphy and to the
students.