

Of all the state institutions, the University of Alabama is perhaps the least vulnerable to pressure from Wallace or other politicians. It has a virtually self-perpetuating board, and, as the alma mater of many of the state's business and political leaders, it is far from helpless politically. On the other hand, Rose is walking a political tightrope, and the penalty for falling off might be reduced university appropriations. Accordingly, he has been imposing restrictions of his own on whom the students may invite to speak on campus. The Democratic Student Organization, a mildly radical campus group, has just been turned down on its plans to bring to the campus such provocative speakers as Mark Rudd, leader of the Columbia revolt, and Eldridge Cleaver, information minister of the Black Panther Party.

Except for his losing battle against the admission of Negroes, Wallace seems not to have tried very hard to interfere in the internal affairs of either the University of Alabama or the state's other major institution, Auburn University, even though as governor he was ex-officio chairman of their boards of trustees. Last year the university, along with other state institutions, was asked—by formal resolution of the legislature and by an executive order of Governor Lurleen Wallace—to play "Dixie" and to display the Confederate flag at football games. However, this trifling chauvinistic gesture represented no serious effort at thought control, and the university went along with it.

A Degree for Adams

Wallace did arrange, it seems, to have the University of Alabama confer an honorary degree on Ralph Adams. And, when the Auburn board met, Wallace sometimes came brandishing a copy of *The Plainsman*, the campus newspaper, and complaining, in effect, that the student editors were being brainwashed by the anti-Wallace publisher of the Auburn *Bulletin*, the commercial newspaper in the town of Auburn, which printed the student paper. But his suggestion that the university itself arrange to print *The Plainsman* was never followed.

Alabama's Negro institutions, public and private, are perhaps those entitled to complain the loudest about Wallace. Last year Wallace attempted, with partial success, to cut off state financial assistance to Tuskegee Institute, in Macon County, where the Negro has made

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **SOVIET DISSENTERS:** Two Soviet scientists are among five Russians sentenced to 3 to 5 years of exile and hard labor for taking part in the August Red Square demonstration against the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia; they are Pavel Litvinov, a 30-year-old physicist and grandson of Stalin's foreign minister, and Konstantin Babitsky, a mathematical linguist. Litvinov was a former teacher in the Moscow Institute of Precision Chemical Technology and Babitsky was at the Russian Language Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. In the trial both denounced the Soviet bar on free speech and free assembly. Vadim Delone, a Russian student who was also sentenced, said, "For three minutes on Red Square I felt free. I am glad to take your three years for that." Other dissidents included the wife of an imprisoned writer and an unemployed worker.

● **ECOLOGISTS ENDORSE HUMPHREY:** A group of ecologists who have canvassed major presidential candidates on environmental issues, including population problems and air and water pollution, have endorsed the candidacy of Vice President Humphrey and Senator Edmund Muskie (D-Maine). In his reply to the ecologists, Humphrey said that he would establish a special advisory board on ecology and a National Institute of Ecology to support research and analysis of environmental problems. The 12 ecologists supporting the Humphrey-Muskie candidacy include three former presidents of the Ecological Society of America, Arthur D. Hasler of the University of Wisconsin, Murray F. Buell of Rutgers University, and W. Frank Blair of the University of Texas.

● **ASTRONOMY SITES:** Construction sites are available for optical telescopes on sites adjacent to the Kitt Peak National Observatory on the Papago Indian reservation in Arizona and the Cerro Totoral Inter-American Observatory in Chile, South America. The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), subject to approval of the National Science Foundation, will lease sites on Kitt Peak, at 6800 feet, and near Cerro Totoral, at 7200 feet, to groups and universities who wish to operate their own instruments, rather than compete for observ-

ing time on AURA telescopes. Applications should be addressed to the Observatory Director, Kitt Peak National Observatory, P.O. Box 4103, Tucson, Ariz. 85717.

● **NYC—UNIVERSITIES LINK:** An Office of University Relations has been established in New York City to improve relations and to coordinate programs between local colleges and the city government. The purpose of the new city agency, which will be established in the office of the deputy mayor, will be to keep city officials informed of university research projects and the colleges informed of city problems and programs. City cabinet meetings will be planned on campuses to give students and faculty the opportunity to meet city officials, and exchanges will be arranged to provide both the faculty members and the students with the opportunity to work in city agencies on urban problems.

● **STUDENT OMBUDSMAN:** The first student ombudsman has been named by the University of Chicago to receive and review student grievances in conflicts over university policies. Provost Edward H. Levi says that the ombudsman will be an independent agent, not a student representative, and that his influence "will depend upon his ability to suggest and persuade." Levi has named John W. Moscow, a senior in political science and last year's news editor on the *Maroon* to the post. Moscow will be provided with an office, a staff, and a salary; he may make investigations of student grievances and will issue a public report quarterly.

● **NEW MICROBIOLOGICAL CENTER:** A new national microbiological testing center has been established in Minneapolis, Minn., by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to test products for bacterial contamination. One function of the new center will be to develop new methods to help FDA identify inspection problems. An FDA 4-month pilot program will test a new broad range of food, drug, and cosmetic products, including dried foods, frozen pies, cooked shrimp, and drugs, such as insulin and thyroid preparations. Eighteen microbiologists from FDA's headquarters and 17 field laboratories are participating.