

INTERVIEW OF JERRY PARKIN

BY

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Parkin: My name is Jerry Parkin. My first participation in the events--

Interviewer: You are Vice-President of the Student Body?

Parkin: That's right. My first participation in the events following Nixon's announcement of troops entering Cambodia was the people's rally held on Saturday, May 2nd, down at the band shell in downtown Ames which proceeded eventually to the Selective Service office. I was asked by one of the group members to speak there and--

Interviewer: Did you actively organize it or did you just act after it got going?

Parkin: Well, I just kind of happened down there. I wasn't expecting to go down but I decided it would be a good idea to show my beliefs and I did not have any part at all in organizing the activity. So, I just kind of went down there and was asked to speak when I was there so I marched down to the Selective Service office and I was about the fourth speaker, I think, and I expressed my dismay at Nixon's move in Cambodia. I thought he was wrong. I also expressed the fact that it would be very difficult for anybody to get me to go to the Indo-China war and fight there. This is my own moral belief, that the war is wrong, that the President did make a mistake. And he went over his constitutional powers as far as sending troops into Cambodia and past Presidents that sent troops into Indo-China, also. This is basically what I expressed at the rally and they broke up soon after I spoke, and I just left right after I spoke--

Interviewer: You didn't go down to the draft board?

Parkin: I was at the draft board when I spoke, yes. I left right after

I spoke at the draft board, after I had marched down there. It was a fairly well organized march. I think the turnout was a little less than anybody expected, but in the light that it was called the day before, it was a real good turnout, I thought, anyhow. On Tuesday, May 5th, the Government of Student Body senate had a meeting which was supposed to be in the Council Chambers but eventually moved to the Great Hall of the Union because of the large crowd size that was expected.

Interviewer: Was this a regular meeting of GSB?

Parkin: Yes, it was.

Interviewer: Why did you expect a large crowd?

Parkin: Well, we were asked to bring up the idea of a student strike. No formal resolution had been written before the meeting, but we were asked to discuss it and--

Interviewer: This was news that had circulated throughout the campus?

Parkin: Yes, and I was asked specifically to discuss it and put it on the agenda. So, it was put on the agenda.

Interviewer: Who asked you to put it on.

Parkin: Robert Trembly and Doug Marks. They specifically asked me if I would put it on. So, it was placed on the agenda, and I was told there would be several students there and if I could get a bigger room to get one. I was asked specifically to get the Armory, for the purpose, so the students would have a good background for a meeting, maybe a little dig at the ROTC program on campus, but that was unavailable so we did get the Great Hall. The Great Hall was pretty well filled. We put up chairs for four hundred people and they were almost all filled. I moved part of the meet-

ing, the part discussing the Cambodia situation to the front of the agenda so I could get that out of the way.

Interviewer: Were you in charge of the meeting?

Parkin: Yes. I'm chairman of the Student Senate, too. So, I guess it was pretty much up to me when it did come up. We discussed it a little bit. Previously that day, I had put out a statement saying that I would support a student strike on the basis that the students in the country and all concerned citizens had to show the President and the Congress that we were upset with the latest move in Indo-China and this is the reason I supported the strike. Jerry Schnoor, who is President of the Student Body, did not support the strike in that way. He supported a mass student rally strongly urging all students to come to this. There was a little bit of difference between us, but we did come together in the end after the strike was called. The meeting got under way around 7:30, I suppose. We brought this up first thing. There was a little bit of discussion by the Senate, by the President, and the people in the Senate, first. We then brought up a resolution. Dana Craig, who is the senator from Science and Humanities college, introduced the resolution concerning the student strike which was discussed. President Schnoor voiced his opposition to it. I did not and could not speak to him since I was chairman of the Senate. We discussed this within the Senate. It was finally moved and seconded and we opened the meeting to a committee of the whole which means anybody in the entire room could discuss this.

Interviewer: Including yourself?

Parkin: No. I'm still chairman so I've got to sit up there and just keep

organization going, I guess. We had two open microphones at each end of the Senate, and we wanted a lot of people from the audience to come up and speak. The people that spoke were Tom Potts, Denny Forsyth, Bob Trembly spoke, Clyde Brown, and there were a number of other students who did speak at this point. Most of them were in favor of the student strike.

Interviewer: Was there any opposition to it?

Parkin: None from the audience. There was scattered opposition in the Senate, but--

Interviewer: How would you characterize opposition, on what bases?

Parkin: Two of the senators felt that Nixon made the right move and that this would stop the spread of Communism. This is why they didn't feel a strike to contradict him was necessary. A number of students felt that just a strike within itself was wrong. So, there was this type of scattered opposition within the Senate, but they didn't come out as forceful or as strong as the people supporting the strike. Most of the people that did talk, as I said before, were supporting the strike and made very good points to the people in the audience and the people in the Senate. I know Dennis Forsyth spoke and he supported the strike. This is what really brought most of the senators, or the senators who did vote for the strike that were kind of edgy about it, to supporting the strike. We then closed committee of the whole, took a vote, roll call vote was requested and the vote came out 15 to 11 in favor of supporting the student strike.

Interviewer: What is the total number of senators? Do you know?

Parkin: There are twenty-six senators so everyone was there that night,

which is something. After the vote I announced that although the strike had been supported, it must be kept peaceful at Iowa State or we might have the same trouble as Kent State had and have four Iowa State students dead, also. We all urged peacefulness in the strike and this is one clause that's in the resolution, too. There'd be a peaceful strike and no violence occur on it. So, we then proceeded to the rest of the business of the meeting, but maybe about a fourth of the way through this we moved to adjourn it because of the activity we had before. We felt that we should send the students over to the Armory to help people organize for this and help marshal the whole idea of it since we had supported it. We broke up the meeting and went downstairs to the office and began running off resolutions so that students could pass it out to the resident associations showing exactly what the student government body had done. And I think half the senators stayed there and I think half went over to the Armory and helped over there.

Interviewer: Where did you go?

Parkin: I was in the machine office trying to get this stuff run off. And we got that done about 11:00 and then I ran over to the Armory for awhile to see how things were going over there. And there was a Dean of Students office staff member there, and it was under control. Nobody was getting rowdy or anything like this. The kids were sitting around, playing football, playing with their frisbies in the Armory so I didn't see any need to stay there. I went home and I had to get up at 6:00 o'clock the next morning to make some, or to run off some more things and to get some things

organized for this rally they were having the next day at noon, and I had been called by a number of radio stations and television stations to get the exact statement of what the student body has passed. I went home hoping I could get a couple hours of sleep. On Wednesday, May 6th, I got back to campus around 6:30 and met with Tom Potts who was one of the organizers of the strike and peace rally. We went over to the Armory to see how things were going over there and there were approximately thirty students left. We found that somebody had broken into a cabinet there and stolen a bunch of medals from the ROTC building which upset quite a few of us and made us a little bit hesitant about what was going to happen the rest of that day. We then proceeded to organize the rally, the speakers at the rally--

Interviewer: How did you pick the speakers.

Parkin: We tried to get a cross section of faculty members so we could get a historical view of the war, and an economic view of the war, political view of the war, and the impact of the war on the nation and campuses. And I think we did a pretty good job. We also wanted to get Mayor Smith so that we could get the impact of the present state on the community. The rally was organized, we had a little trouble getting speaking equipment first, but we finally got that--

Interviewer: Who made the suggestion for the specific speakers? Do you know?

Parkin: The main organizers of the speakers of the rally were Jerry Schnoor, myself, and Bob Trembly. We did most of the organizing as far as the speakers. I called all the speakers and got suggestions from the others as to who we had.

Interviewer: Did you all agree as to the individual speakers?

Parkin: Yes. We were. There was no disagreement there at all. We got, well we had, when the rally got started probably around 12:30, we started with--

Interviewer: Let me interrupt here. Did you have anything to do with the flag incident?

Parkin: Yes. I had heard about the flag incident from a couple of students who said that the flag was not put up that day. I don't know exactly why it wasn't put up so I made a phone call to Robert Parks, the President of the University, and I talked to him and he gave me the situation and why it was taken down and why it was possible it would not be put back up. We talked for awhile and we finally agreed that the flag would be put back up at 11:30 and that a minister would take the flag down to half mast and then the flag would be put back up after the memorial services. So we got that all straightened around and we got a minister who agreed to do it and I believe it was Rev. Belli who did finally take the flag down to half mast. So that the rally got started around 12:30 or so an--

Interviewer: You had nothing to do, you did not participate in the incident attempting to raise the flag?

Parkin: No. That was a couple of students who were opposed to the reason the flag was taken down. I think we had a misunderstanding as to why the flag was taken down. They thought the flag would be lowered half mast in memorial of the Cambodia situation. In actuality, it was taken down in the memorial of the four Kent State students who were killed. So, I think they were unjustified

in their attempts to stop the flag from being lowered to half mast. O.K. We started the memorial services off with the memorial service from Rev. Belli and another minister from the campus from the Baptist Church, I can't remember his name. They gave a eulogy to the students and we had a prayer and then Sue Osborn sang a few folk songs. We then got started with the speakers. I was asked to make the opening and I did, basically saying that President Nixon had made a mistake and we would show him through peaceful means that we know he has made a mistake and we must keep peaceful. Basically along these lines with what I said. We then got started with our speakers. First of all was Wallace Ogg who is the professor of economics who was supposed to give us the economic background. He did a little bit, I guess, but he mostly gave his own personal views of the war which was fine because it was basically an open forum. Then an instructor of the Department of Mathematics, Dr. Allen, spoke. He was not scheduled but nobody objected when he did speak. I believe he is chairman of the Faculty Committee on Peace. He spoke and then next Dr. Dodson of the History Department was supposed to speak but Bob Trembly got up and said something to the effect that the ROTC

Interviewer: This was out of order. Was he scheduled to speak?

Parkin: No. Bob Trembly was not scheduled to speak. He got up and grabbed the microphone and said that the ROTC students were marching on the practice field west of the Armory and if we really believed in peace we'd go over and stop this march and go and sit down and talk with the people just to stop the teaching of killing on

campus. Clyde Brown then grabbed the microphone and reiterated the fact that we should remain peaceful, we should not try and harm the ROTC students and just to sit down and talk with them, nothing more than that. I grabbed the microphone and said basically the same thing Clyde did urging as many students as I could find to stay at the rallies and we did have a number of speakers who wanted to speak who I felt the students should hear to find out what was going on. Most of the students, I'd say, well, three fourths to four-fifths of the students left and went over to the ROTC building.

Interviewer: And you followed them?

Parkin: I stayed at the rally another five minutes to make sure that it was still organized, make sure that the speakers would stay and speak. Dr. Dodson was scheduled to speak and Mayor Stuart Smith and Mr. Wessell from the Political Science Department.

Interviewer: Did they speak?

Parkin: Yes, they did, Dr. Dodson spoke. I left right after he spoke to get over there to make sure things were going O.K. The rest of the speakers did speak, I guess, to maybe. three or four hundred students. I didn't listen to the speakers after Dr. Dodson. I then ran over to the ROTC building with Tom Potts who also stayed along behind me and it was going rather well. Nobody was really harrassing the ROTC cadets to any violent point. They were trying to talk with them, asking them why they were in ROTC and things like this. I think the ROTC people, the faculty members in ROTC, handled this very well. They didn't lose their tempers which I think I would have if I had been in ROTC.

Interviewer: What were you doing at this point?

Parkin: I was just trying to keep the people back from standing around the ROTC boys. I asked them if they wanted to talk to the ROTC people, if they wanted to stop this marching activity and I said they should sit down and not run around between the troops and things like this. They should sit down and hopefully discuss it. The ROTC commander, I don't know what his name is, finally dismissed the cadets saying that there was no point in holding the drill marches any further. So they went over to the Armory. A number of students tried to talk to the ROTC people. Maybe five or six ROTC boys did talk with them.

Interviewer: Did you talk to any?

Parkin: No, I got over to the Armory as fast as I could and then I made sure that that was organized again. Most of the people headed over there, the ROTC people went to their classes, most of them did, and the rest of the people congregated on the floor of the Armory.

Interviewer: Was there any sense of stopping them from going to their classes?

Parkin: No, there wasn't. The ROTC people were allowed to go wherever they wanted to. Really. So, then the people were organizing, rather congregating on the floor of the Armory, just sitting there with nothing to do which kind of upset me. I remember people said there were three or four students who had rocks in their hands. That didn't make me feel too good at the time so we finally got Sue Osborn to get her guitar out and sing again. She's fabulous, she can just keep them cold so it's a good thing she came. There were maybe 2,000 to 2,500 students in the Armory at the

time and they started singing and I then left with Tom Potts to go back over to the rally and see what was going on over there. So, we headed over there and there wasn't much going on. We started back but we saw everybody was marching out of the Armory down the road in front of Beardshear.

Interviewer: Did many from the rally join the crowd going down?

Parkin: Maybe fifty or sixty. The rally had pretty much dispersed by then. All the students had either gone to class or gone back to whatever they were doing before. We tried to find out what was going on. We found out they were planning to march down either to the City Hall or the draft board, they hadn't made up their minds yet. Tom Potts, Jerry Schnoor, and I attempted to stop the march ourselves since the students didn't have a parade permit and they would get into nothing but trouble because they were acting mostly like a mob right now with no purpose or no intent. It was kind of frightening at the time. They finally got going down Lincoln Way, tried to stop them but there was no way we could stop them. We did call the police force and let them know that students would be marching, tell them that we did have our own marshalls, approximately fifty or sixty students who were acting as marshalls and that if the police would please stay away that we would try and contain them with our own marshalls.

Interviewer: How did you pick your marshalls on such short notice?

Parkin: Well, we tried to get most of the Government of Student Body Senators to act as marshalls and a number of students from Pep Council, and the Greek system

Interviewer: Did you have marshals at the rally?

Parkin: Yes, we did, they were at the rally.

Interviewer: Did they continue as marshalls on the march?

Parkin: Yes, they did. Most of them did and I was real happy about it.

I thought when something like this came up they now, because of fear of violence, would fall off. But they stayed right along with it. So, I thought there was no way at all of stopping them. Clyde Brown was leading the march. He's one of the active leaders, the pacifist element against the war. Also, a very good march leader; he can keep people cool. So, they meet again marching down Lincoln Way. They stopped at the intersection of Beach and Lincoln Way to decide what they were going to do and they sat down there and there were different elements. Someone wanted to come back to Beardshear and meet with representatives of the administration. Others wanted to march down to the Selective Service office. They split up, I say, oh, I couldn't even say what proportion left and what proportion stayed and some of the students just left, but five hundred to a thousand students marched downtown. So, we kept the marshalls going and kept the traffic away from the crowd and the police followed at a distance which I commended them for because they didn't try to interrupt the activities at all.

Interviewer: Were there any complaints because you didn't have a parade--?

Parkin: No, there wasn't. I was glad. I had expected some complaint, maybe a mass arrest or something like this, maybe worse, but it came off real well. No complaints from the City Manager or the police department. One of the few instances of trouble we had was when we passed the Highway Commission and two or three students suggested lowering the flag and either to half mast or

turning it upside down and raising it again but Clyde Brown kept them in line at this along with a number of other students and we got past that pretty well. They went down to Main Street. They turned left on Kellogg or Duff and up Main Street. They had finally decided to go to the draft board. We also had another encounter there when a couple of postal employees were sitting in their car and started honking the horn. One of the students got a little upset and ran over there and luckily myself and another student intercepted him while he chewed out the guy who was honking his horn, or the police chewed him out for honking his horn, which I commend the police for. They marched peacefully downtown, still they are pretty much in a mob action and they really don't know what they are doing. They didn't know what they were going to do when they got down to the draft center which really worried us because a mob doesn't have anything-Interviewer: You say 'we'. Who do you include?

Parkin: Well, the marshalls and me because we were really upset because there's no specific purpose in marching down, there was nothing that was going to finalize their actions while they were there. So we, I'm speaking mainly of the marshalls and parade leaders and myself, were a little bit upset as to what would happen when we got down there. We finally got down to the draft center and got all the students to sit on the grass and these areas. I think Clyde Brown announced what was happening, things like this. We got the Jugband down there to play, hoping that they would keep them cooled down again but for a good part of a half hour they just sat there and milled around. The Jugband played,

there were a couple of speakers saying exactly what the purpose of the march was for, and somebody suggested that a group of students spend the night at the draft board. Not allow it to open up in the morning. Twenty or twenty-five students did stay. I don't know if they spent the entire night or not. I know they were there the next day. Interviewer: How long did you stay there?

Parkin: I stayed until most of the students left. Until there were about twenty or twenty-five left.

Interviewer: About what time was this?

Parkin: It was around 5:30 or 6:00. The Dean of Students staff was down there. I rode home with one of them and it all went pretty well. There was no trouble that night. On Thursday, May 7th, I went down to my office in the Union about, oh, sometime between 8 and 9 o'clock. I think it was closer to 8 o'clock. I was told that a number of students had been arrested down at the draft board. I was told on hearsay that the police had used clubs, tear gas, mace, and things like that. So, I got a couple of other students and went down there as fast as I could. The police were just picking up the last few students. There were two sitting along side of the draft board, Jeffery Klomp and Doug Marks. The police picked them up and carried them away. I talked to a number of the members of the Dean of Students office. I talked to Ted Lawrence, and a number of other faculty members who were there. It was suggested that a group of students go back to the University and start organizing a bail fund to get these students out. I was con-

cerned because the leaders of the march and the leaders of the peace rallies were in jail. By this I mean Clyde Brown and Bob Trembly and I was a little bit concerned about where the issue would go if there was no leadership around. So, a group of students went back to the University to organize this. I went down to the courthouse to talk to some people. I talked to Bishop, City Attorney, to see what had happened. I talked to the students to find out their story. I sat down by Jim Hannah, one of the persons arrested, Barbara Yates who was also arrested and I got a pretty good whiff of the tear gas since the container was dropped directly on them. I talked with them for awhile to find out if anybody had actually been clubbed. I found out one student had been clubbed. His hand was all swelled up. I talked to him. Hannah had burns on his hand from when he picked up the tear gas container and threw it out the door. I then went and talked to the City Attorney, Mr. Bishop, to find out why tear gas had been used and why mace had been used on Bob Trembly and why the clubs were used. He was very uncooperative. I asked him if I could ask him a couple of questions. He said, "Sure, fine." So, I said, "Why was tear gas used?" He proceeded to tell me that he wasn't going to stand there and argue with me, I could ask questions if I wanted to but if I was going to argue, I was going to have to leave. So, I said, "O.K., I'm not going to argue with you. Why were clubs used?" He again told me that he was not there to argue which means that I could leave if I was going to argue with him. So, I said, "O.K., I won't argue with you. Why was

mace used?" He again proceeded to tell me that he wasn't going to argue with me and that he'd kick me out if I was going to ask anymore questions like that. So, I didn't. I went back and talked to Jim Hannah and people like this, people who were arrested to tell them that we were going to organize a bail fund. Asked them if they wanted me to contact a lawyer for them. They did. So, I called Jim Jones from Maurer and Jones Law downtown. Interviewer: Why did you pick him?

Parkin: We had done some work with Maurer and Jones. Jerry Jones had been helping us with the housing situation here on campus. We contacted him first, but he was in Nevada. So, I then talked to Jim, basically because I knew of their law firm and I knew that they were good men. He agreed to come down right away and get things organized. In the meanwhile the police had blocked off the City Hall entrance and were not allowing any students to come in. It kind of upset me because the regular townspeople could come in, but I was not allowed to come in and a number of students were not allowed to come in. I finally did get in by telling them I was Vice-President of the Student Body. I had a reason to be down there. So, I went in with Jim Jones and he--

Interviewer: He was Jim Jones, not Jerry Jones, right?

Parkin: Jim Jones who appeared. He went up to talk to Mr. Bishop to find out the charges and find out anything else that might be happening. Jerry Schnoor stayed there for awhile, then he came back to the University to get things organized here. I stayed and talked to the students a little while they were being booked and sent down to the cell. I then came back to the University

and went down to my office to start getting things organized, get a bail fund organized. A booth was set up in the Union with a can to collect donations. A number of faculty members were contacted as far as donations, and a number of businessmen were contacted. I believe the rally was organized on central campus, if I remember correctly

Interviewer: At noon?

Parkin: Yes. To get the money and to get donations for the students.

Interviewer: Did you actually organize the rally?

Parkin: Yes, I did. I felt that somebody had to take the role of the leader and I didn't know if I could but I was going to try. So, we got this organized and we got a good turn out again. I'd say between seven hundred fifty and twelve hundred students.

Interviewer: Who spoke at the rally? Did you say anything there?

Parkin: Yes, I spoke at the rally. Tom Potts spoke at the rally and a number of the radical students spoke. I can't recall their names exactly.

Interviewer: What did you say at the rally?

Parkin: I got up and said that the students were arrested and told them the story that I had heard down there and told the story I heard from both city people and from the students so we could get both ideas out. I then said that we are passing cans around. We need money to get these students out. We were anticipating, we needed at least \$1,000. So, the students passed around the cans. We got around \$200 the first time around. We kept passing around the cans. A faculty member who wished to be anonymous came up to me and told me that he would loan \$500 to help get these students out. So, I went and announced this to the

audience which brought a standing ovation for the anonymous benefactor, I guess you'd call him. The anonymous faculty member who donated this money proceeded to bring in more money from faculty members and from the students. We gathered all the money we had and took the checks and went down to the courthouse. The hearings were supposed to start at 1 o'clock. We got down there and found out that they were not starting until 1:30. We got the checks all cashed. We had possibly at the time, \$800 and students were still collecting money back at the University. So, I went around and talked to the people in the cells through the cell windows and told them we had some money and they wanted to see it, of course. So, I showed them the money which made them very happy. I talked to Jim Jones a little bit to find out exactly what charges were being brought up. We found out that the hearing would be open which made us happy because Judge McKinney did have the right to close the hearing. The courtroom was fairly well filled when the hearing had started

Interviewer: Mostly by students?

Parkin: Mostly by students, yes. There were three or four faculty members there.

Interviewer: Any townspeople that you could--

Parkin: Not that I could tell, no. So, I was asked to keep charge of all the money and personally post the bail for everybody. I started out with approximately \$1,000 in my pocket and they started bringing the people up for trial, or up for hearing and as soon as they were announced, what their bond would be, I went to the city clerk and waited for the papers to come so I

could get them out as fast as possible. They were brought in one by one. I think Jeff Klomp was the fifth person in and he was charged with resisting arrest and unlawful assembly and disturbing the peace. His resisting arrest bond was set at \$500 which upset quite a few people because we knew there would be at least three or four people who would be charged with resisting arrest and we knew that we didn't have the money to get them out. So, that upset us a little bit, but I had the money to get Jeff Klomp out right away so I did put down the bond. We sent people back to the University to raise more money, ask for more donations. We got a number of faculty members who donated \$200 and \$300. One faculty member donated \$2,000 to help get these people out. So, we were still worried about the amount of money that we would have to pay. I saw the courtroom being cleared just after I left. The judge had accused Sally Bennett of calling him an obscene name which in my estimation the people sitting next to her said she did not say it.

Interviewer: You were not there when she said it?

Parkin: I wasn't. My girl friend came down with me and was sitting right next to her. She said that she didn't say it and I talked to four or five other people who said she didn't say it, but I wasn't there when it did happen. She was taken down to the jail, at this time she was charged, she was being carried down there and she was yelling obscenities which she first didn't. She was booked and sent down to the cell. This again upset a few people and I was afraid the tension was getting a little bit worse, but it finally cooled back down. The other people

were brought up for arraignment. Clyde Brown was charged with resisting arrest, a \$500 bond. They saved Bob Trembly for the last. I don't know why, whether they wanted to keep him in jail or not. He was brought up for the hearing and we'd gotten everybody else out by then and we were all waiting for Bob to come up. He was charged with resisting arrest, unlawful assembly, disturbing the peace, and his bond was set at \$2,100. Which really shocked us because I didn't think I had enough money for that. The reason his bond was set higher is because he had been caught a couple weeks before pushing his motorcycle down Lincoln Way 'cause it wouldn't start and the judge used this as a previous record and, therefore, gave him a higher bond. Luckily, I had about \$200 over this so we did get him out and got all the students out and, except for Sally Bennett, who was sentenced to ten days for contempt of court. I talked to Jim Jones on this to find out what the charges would be for Sally to see if there was any chance through her. He felt that the charges were very hard considering this was just her first case of contempt. Most people are given warning at first and she was just thrown in jail. So, he said he would be willing to continue her case if she wanted him to, but he suggested to get other lawyers for the other students. So, we thanked him for his work and he said that he would continue Sally's case. Most of the students at that time left and went back to campus. A rally was organized for 5:00 o'clock that night on central campus explaining to the student body what had happened. I did not participate in organizing this rally, it was mostly

organized by the so-called radical element on campus, the more liberal people. They asked me to speak at that rally telling how much I had spent on bond money, how much we had left and to read a list of names of people who had gotten charged, and what they had gotten charged for. So, I did this. I informed the audience that I had raised approximately, or we had spent approximately \$4,350 on bond and we would be needing more for defense for these students. I sat around and listened to other speakers and it was mostly students saying what they had done in the jail that day and what they had done to get arrested and things like this. This broke up, well, I left before it broke up, but I understand it broke up around 8:30 or so. That night I went down to the office and stayed there. People kept bringing in donations for defense funds, things like this. I kept them in my desk, locked in my desk, later to be turned over to the Peace Now fund which had been established in a bank, a local bank. I talked to some of the students that had been arrested and some of the others who were asking to find out what had happened and what was going to happen the next day. They said again that they would not allow the draft office to be open. This was more or less a symbol of military action that's undertaken and this was a way the students, or young men were being sent to their deaths in Cambodia, or Vietnam or the Indo-China war. They told me very strongly that the draft board office would not be open which I really didn't know how to react to at the time. They said it wouldn't be open the next day. I talked with them a little bit more, then I went home to bed to try

and get a little bit more sleep 'cause it's gonna be a long day again. The next day was the Veishea parade, the annual Veishea parade, I had to get up early for this to go to a judges meeting and go judge the parade. I had anticipated that there would be a march there. The Veishea people had allowed it and I anticipated a very good turnout for this and for the rally following it which political speakers would be in and people commenting on the war. The Veishea parade got started around 10:00 or 10:15. In the place of the Prairie Primer group, which is a motorcycle group or group of radical students who ride motorcycles, was going to be a march started, it was called the March of Concern. There was a very good turnout. They came past my judging stand and asked me if I would march. I, instead, proceeded to give them the peace sign which made them all very happy, to show them at least a judge was concerned about what was happening. They marched there and the rest of them came by, and the whole group marched at the end of the parade. I joined in this. There were a lot of people, a lot of townspeople, parents joined in this. I'd be afraid to estimate how many. They proceeded around the parade route to central campus which had been set up along with speakers for some political candidates and other active people who were going to speak. People sat down on central campus, approximately fifteen hundred, or two thousand, and the speakers came. There was William Plymat who is a candidate for Congressional 5th District, the Republican nomination, there was Robert Fulton who is a candidate for Democratic nomination for the governorship, and then an open mike was left for students.

I stayed and listened to the people speak for awhile and again a can was passed around to get money. I took this down to my office and then kind of took the rest of the day off 'cause there were no activities planned. There was another Festival of Life activity over on central campus that night and I attended that for awhile. Mostly folk singing and things like this. It was a pretty quiet day and came off pretty well, I think. I had been called on Friday saying that a student by the name of Ralph Gross wanted to meet with a few GSB people to discuss the idea of students getting out of classes to become politically active and stay concerned. I had agreed to meet at approximately 3:00 o'clock, Sunday, with these students. I went up to the room and found that 3/4 of the Senate was there and a number of other interested students. They discussed the idea of allowing options and then five of the senators presented the petition calling for a special Senate meeting, which I did. The resolution was drawn up asking certain options be opened to students so that they could get out of their classes early and become politically active and politically concerned with the situation in the United States. This was passed unanimously. There was just a quorum there, seventeen senators were there, which constituted a quorum. This was passed and that night another meeting was called with the faculty members and other interested students in the Council Chambers. Jerry Schnoor and myself along with Dr. Christensen helped coordinate this meeting and keep it flowing at a half way decent level. A number of people were allowed to speak and voice their opposition

to or support of this resolution and tell what they thought its chances were. A number of faculty members spoke and a number of the student body people spoke along with other concerned faculty members and students so we could get maybe a rough idea of what reaction we would get from the student body and University and community on this. This meeting dispersed at about 9:30 or 10:00 and we were told the Faculty Council would be meeting the next day at noon to discuss this. This is a special meeting of the Faculty Council. So, they would be meeting at noon and Jerry Schnoor and I were asked to present our case to the Faculty Council and see if they consider it.

Interviewer: So, next morning, or noon, on Monday then, you met with the Faculty Council?

Parkin: Yes. They met on second floor of the Union. There were again a number of concerned students there. Jerry Schnoor presented the resolution saying in essence what it said and I again reiterated the fact that the students wanted to become politically active and politically concerned. Students felt that the courses they were taking at the University were not relevant to the situation. They wanted basically to become relevant, I think. They really didn't want to close down the University, they just wanted to make the University relevant. Faculty Council Executive Committee had met prior to this and had established a resolution which they would present to the Faculty Council which we didn't know about. This resolution was passed, a very much watered down idea of what we had passed in the Senate.

Interviewer: Was there any opposition among the Faculty Council members to

the resolution in their executive--

Parkin: One of the faculty members, one of the members of the Faculty Council asked that this resolution be made a little bit stronger and his idea was just left hanging. The resolution was passed unanimously by the Faculty Council. Basically, what it did was just reiterate there were already openings for students to get out of classes earlier and suggested, urged strongly, that faculty members make all attempts to allow students to become politically active. This was passed unanimously and the students were happy with this and I don't think really they understood what it said. They weren't being allowed any special options.

Interviewer: Now, there was an informal meeting later in the afternoon to discuss cooperation, various groups, such as Veishea Central Committee, etc. . . Were you present then?

Parkin: Yes, I was. That was just a meeting to organize what we'd do for the students who did get out of classes. We wanted to keep them on campus rather than letting them go home and start planning for or get their summer job that much earlier. So, we were organizing ideas that we thought would keep students on campus. This included information teams going out to high schools and civic groups to speak on our concerns of the war and what we thought should be done. It constituted organizing a rally to relight the Veishea torch for peace and keep it lighted until the end of the school year and this is basically what the different groups would be doing as far as getting this organized. Jerry Schnoor went over and talked to Dr. Parks to find out both his reactions to the Government of the Student Body resolution and the Faculty

Council resolution. He agreed to support the Faculty Council resolution and that's pretty much what happened.

Interviewer: There was a meeting of AAUP that night to discuss, I assume, the Faculty Council resolution. Were you present?

Parkin: No, I wasn't. I was down at the office working there, trying to get a few things organized for what was going to happen the next few days. I knew the students would be going down to stop this bus which was taking draftees for their physicals down to Des Moines. It was going to happen at approximately 6:00 o'clock in the morning. I was called up that same morning about 6:30 saying that a number of students had been arrested and this time a little bit of violence had happened. So, I again went down to the courthouse.

Interviewer: You didn't go down to the Selective Service office?

Parkin: No, I went directly down to the courthouse to find out the names of the students arrested and find out the charges again and find out exactly what violence had happened. I talked to Chief Siedelmann and he explained the situation. I talked to the students who were down there, but not arrested, to find out what was happening. We were lucky that none of the seventeen people were arrested as repeaters, as far as being arrested again.

Interviewer: Did you talk to City Attorney Bishop again?

Parkin: No, I didn't. I couldn't see any sense in talking to him. I was, I talked to Assistant Chief of Police, Lyttle, and he allowed me to go down and talk to the students in the jail. So, I went down and talked to them. I talked to the men first and they agreed that one lawyer for the whole group is what they

wanted and I asked if there were any people that they wanted me to call and things like this and I gave them a pack of cigarettes that they asked for. And then I went up and talked to the girls to find out if there was anybody that they wanted me to call, to tell them what the men had decided as far as being represented by a lawyer. I talked to maybe both groups a half hour, came back to campus and this time we got--

Interviewer: Did you contact a lawyer for them?

Parkin: Yes. I think this time we got Jerry Jones to represent them. And he represented them at the hearing. We again raised money and--

Interviewer: When was the hearing?

Parkin: The hearing was held that afternoon or rather that morning. It started I think at 10:00. Most of the people were out by noon. Yes, most of them were out by noon.

Interviewer: Did you have enough money on hand to bail them out?

Parkin: We didn't have enough on hand to get them out but we did eventually raise enough. I don't know who posted the bond that day. I wasn't down there during the entire hearing but I was back at campus again trying to get things organized for the Council on Student Affairs meeting which I just hit at the tail end and we were raising money back at campus to help these students get out of jail again and this time none of the real leadership was in jail; but we also had some contradictions as to who, whether we wanted to get the people out of jail, who had been violent, who had started hitting the police. We talked to several students on this and it was finally decided that we might as well get them

all out so we wouldn't have any martyr sitting in jail. We got them out and

Interviewer: Was the bail set at any large amount this time? Like with Trembly?

Parkin: There were three or four resisting arrests which would be \$500. There were none higher than that. So, these students were all gotten out of jail and that day, CSA, or Council of Student Affairs voted to recommend not having Governor's Day, which I think is a good idea.

Interviewer: Governor's Day is what?

Parkin: The Governor's Day is a military review held by the ROTC students for the Governor so that he can

Interviewer: And this would have been held when?

Parkin: It would have been held the following Saturday, the 16th of May, And this was cancelled by authority of Dr. Parks. It was not cancelled to show opposition to ROTC but rather in safety for the campus just in case violence would occur on Governor's Day and I think it was a wise decision not to hold it this year. I was told on Wednesday morning, May 13th, that we had been asked to meet with Governor Ray to discuss what was happening on Iowa's campuses. We went down there, I think we were supposed to be down there about 1:00, 1:30 rather. So myself, Dave Henry, Tom Fortson, Jerry Schnoor went down to meet with the Governor. There were students from the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa who also talked to him. It was basically just a rap session so the Governor could find out our views of what has happened and we could find out his views of what was going to happen in the future. We discussed such things as ROTC on

the campus, movement of the Highway Patrol to the Iowa City area, the arrest of the Iowa City students, the arrest of the Ames students. We, also, expressed our displeasure at the actions of several public officials. For example, we from Ames, or rather I, expressed extreme displeasure at the actions of City Attorney Bishop and we also told them how happy we were with the actions of the administration here on campus, Mayor Smith and people like this and basically the Ames police department, how they reacted to the situation. It was a gripe session, I guess you would say. We gave the Governor our complaints and he gave us his. We also asked the Governor whether he would be willing to come up to the Ames campus on Saturday regardless of whether there was a Governor's Day. But just to react with the students, talk to the students. He said that he would contact me on this later. So, after this discussion with the Governor, we did come back to campus and Jerry and I sat around and talked about it and we talked to a couple of students about what the Governor had said. I'd say that it was a very worthwhile session. He was very concerned about what was happening, he was interested in students' reactions as to what had happened, what might happen in the future. He had agreed that he would not call out the National Guard unless violence had happened on a campus and even if the Guard was to come out there would be no loaded weapon used by the National Guard and this made all of us very happy. Like I said, it was a worthwhile session, I agreed. We all got a lot out of talking to him and finding out what his opinion was, finding out what the opinion of the Iowa City

students was. They were a more radical group than either ourselves or the University of Northern Iowa people and they were apprehensive, I think, about talking with the Governor in the first place, but we did get a lot discussed from this. On Friday morning, the pre-trial arraignments for Bob Trembly, Jeff Klomp, Clyde Brown who were among the first group of students arrested were held. Jeff Klomp was told the charges against him were dismissed against him as far as resisting arrest because of mistaken identity. Clyde Brown was informed that Loras Friberger, or a warrant for arrest for Loras was out 'cause he was also charged with resisting arrest now. Clyde came back and told us about this

Interviewer: You say 'us', you mean?

Parkin: Jerry Schnoor and myself. Nobody had informed Loras, none of the police had told him or the City Hall hadn't told him. So, that afternoon around 1:00, he came in the office and we discussed exactly what he was going to do. Some of the students, Bob Trembly suggested that he wait until Monday and go down and have a mass rally while he goes down or call the police on campus to pick him up. I suggested that he go down today and show that he was concerned as to why he was being arrested and he was not fighting the due process of the judicial system here in Ames. So, he decided to go down that day. We told him we had enough money to get him out. We called the press so that we'd get good coverage of a student turning himself in because I guess this would give us more rapport with the Ames citizens. So, we took him down to City Hall and he was booked, fingerprinted and

things like this and then the bond was posted for him. And he was released that day. Earlier that day, I had been in contact with Mike Sellers, special assistant to the Governor, to find out if Governor Ray would be able to come up sometime during the next week. Mr. Sellers called me and said that the Governor would be coming up that day. He'd be arriving at the Ames airport around 3:30 and we were to pick him up there and bring him to campus so that he could talk with students. As soon as we got done with Loras down at the City Hall, we went to pick up the Governor and his wife and another assistant and then went back to the Memorial Union. We showed him the Vital Issues Center which is organizing all the speaking engagements and petitions drives that are happening now at Iowa State. He sat there and talked with a couple of students about what was happening. We tried to keep this played down as much as possible. He didn't want any special publicity on it. He'd just as soon keep away from the press during this time. Somebody called WOI and said the Governor was walking down the hall with Jerry Schnoor and Jerry Parkin, so as soon as we found that out we left. We went out to the Towers Residents Association and were there about, it was 5:00 or 5:30, just as the lunch lines were opening. Eventually, we got a group of maybe thirty or thirty-five students talking with the Governor. They discussed such things as ROTC, what their feelings on the issues had been, the strike, the protests, things like this. We then took him into a sorority house on campus, the Kappa Alpha Theta house for supper and he talked to a few students there and then we took him back to the

airport around 6:30 that night. A number of students were impressed that the Governor had shown concern by coming to the campus. I think anybody that talked to him was impressed with his ideas and his willingness to come here and discuss things with what you would call the average student, if there is such a thing. We talked with him on the way back to the airport a little bit. He was very happy that the press had not been informed that he was coming so that he, the main reason that he didn't want the press to come is that he doesn't feel he can talk openly and the students will talk openly with him if the press is around. I think we did get a better reaction than we would have if the press had been around. We didn't get any static from the Iowa State Daily or WOI or anybody like this for not informing them. In fact, I have never heard anything from them on this situation. So, we were very happy with the reaction of the students and the reaction of Governor Ray, as to what was happening here. He did get a lot accomplished. He was impressed with the Vital Issues Center and the way we were organizing things here. The Vital Issues Center was set up basically as a need for the organization of activities on campus and what was going to be happening, throughout the state, and the rest of the school year. It was felt that the Government of Student Body should set this up as they were a more legitimate group than other groups participating in this. By legitimate, I mean more well known with the faculty and with the students and townspeople in Ames. We organized this and set it up in the Senate office in the Memorial Union.

Bob Nelson, a senator from the Science and Humanities college, set up most of things and kept it manned throughout the days. One of the first things we did was to run off a contract form for students and faculty to sign as far as getting out of class on early arrangements they had made and so we would have written records as to what students had done. We also organized petition drives for Amendment 609 which limited funds to the Indo-China war. It was proposed by the Senator McGovern, Senator Hughes, Senator Goodell and Senator Hatfield and we organized petition drives here. We've also organized seminars in which faculty members, students, and state people have spoken as far as education for people to the situation of the Cambodian war. We have such people as Bill Ringle speak on what is happening in the war, Rick Thompsen, who is our student body draft counselor, spoke on the draft and the war, state representative June Franklin from Des Moines, spoke on racism and war. We had a panel of state senators speaking of the effects of our national government and state government on war and on the nation's whole. And these have been very well attended. We've had a lot of good reactions and most of the seminars have been filled. We've been very fortunate in having ROTC people set up seminars for us to speak on ROTC on campus. I think we had a real good reaction to this. This Vital Issues Center is also organizing teams to go out and speak to different townspeople and different groups in different cities across the state to show what is happening on the campuses. We're trying to get a cross section on these groups. We want to get a student member that's more to the left,

then a very conservative student who agrees with President Nixon, and a faculty member on the committee. We've had a lot of trouble getting a conservative student who agrees with the war. They just seem like that they don't need to get the point across or they don't want to go out and express this information to the people of the state. But we've had seven or eight groups going out lately and I think we're getting a lot more towards the end of the year which is kind of bad I guess because a lot of students will be going home.

Interviewer: Is this intended to keep going during the summer and right into next fall?

Parkin: Yes, it is. We are also gathering names and addresses, summer addresses of students who are interested in working with the peace movement during the summer. A group of students are going to Washington D.C. next week to lobby for the peace movement. I think there are about five from Iowa State that are going. I'll be in Washington all summer and I hope with my time off there from my job, I will be able to work as far as lobbying, and the peace movement and things like this. I'm also writing a special problems paper for the political science department on the peace movement and its effects on the national government, its impact on the national government. So, I hope to be doing a lot of work on this during the summer. I don't know if it will be coordinated here in Ames, during the summer. It depends on who is going to be around the University, but it will be coordinated from someplace in the state during the summer in hopes that it will keep things going. Another thing we are

trying to do to the Vital Issues Center is get people in national prominence and big leaders to come to the University and talk to students. I've been pretty much in charge of this and we haven't really had that much luck except through the seminar. I contacted Senator Miller in Washington to find out if he could speak. His personal secretary said that she would call back and let me know. So, I called her back the next day and talked with her about it and she said the Senator was so filled up with commencement exercises and things like this that there was no way he could come. But he would be very happy to send us four thousand copies of his newsletter which had all his opinions of the war in it. It didn't make anybody that had heard about this too happy. I also contacted Congressman Schwengel who is in the midst of a campaign right now and it was almost impossible for him to come, but there are a number of students on the campus who are working for him in his campaign, or primary campaign against David Stanley. I've been very active in his campaign, especially since he's the one that gave me the job in Washington this summer, but we're hoping for his victory, and then a number of students are working for William Plymat, who is a peace candidate against, or in the Republican primary, hopefully against Neil Smith in the 5th district. We haven't had that much luck getting national leaders on campus. We've had pretty good luck as far as getting state senators, state representatives and community leaders to speak.

Interviewer: Is this something that you again hope can keep going until next fall

Parkin: I hope so, yes, because the elections will be coming up November

4th, next fall. We hope that we can get a lot of the candidates here on campus to speak, both candidates for the state-house and candidates for the Congress.

Interviewer: What were your aims when you first entered into these events on campus?

Parkin: I'd say my aim was basically to show the American people and the national leaders that we as students are concerned citizens by what our nation is doing, what is happening in the world. We tried basically to work through the system to show the people we could work through the system, we would work through the system with a common goal. The trouble is right now that this movement hasn't spread enough to the entire nation. This is one of our aims in the very near future to get more of the average silent majority type of people involved in the movement.

Interviewer: Now, you have been active on the events on campus, either organizing, participating, or such. How effective do you think the actions have been in implementing your own aims or the aims of others associated?

Parkin: I think we have been very effective. I think a lot of the people in the nation have shown a great respect for the movement now because we have tried to keep non-violence, or tried to keep violence at a minimum or completely out of it if we can. I think they're impressed that we are working through the system. This is what a lot of people, you know, didn't think that students could ever do or especially the radical type of students. Even these students are working through the system, either for congressmen, senators, things like this. I think we're going to

have a great impact on the national election coming up in November. A lot of senators and congressmen are very concerned now about the outcome of that election. Some of the congressmen and senators who are coming up for elections will worry about their reelection power abilities. They're worrying a little less now while the hawkish people are worrying more and I think the impact of letter campaigns, things like this on our senators and congressmen will change quite a few attitudes and will change the outcome of the election they expected.

Interviewer: Now, if you could re-do what had happened on campus, do you think anything, would you have done things differently?

Parkin: I think the only thing I would have done differently is try to get a little more organization. We were very loosely organized at first and we hadn't really started getting organized until about two weeks ago. I think with more organization, it would have given it more impact on the nation and gotten more people involved in it.

Interviewer: Have these actions changed your way of thinking or your aims in anyway?

Parkin: They have changed my way of thinking I think a little bit. I am more impressed with political concern of people around me. I never thought, like I said before, that the type of people I've been working with, say the radicals, or left, would work within the system. They see that this is the way it has to be done, that this is the only way it can be done and I'm very happy with the way it has happened. I also changed my thinking towards a number of people in the national limelight I'd say, because I've come

to respect Senator Hughes much more for his attempts to stop the war. I can't say as I support the President, Nixon, and his move. I think he did what he thought was right, but I disagree with what he said and what he thinks is right. I think he limited his own political future now. I think otherwise he would have been a good President. Right now, I think, unless he comes out ahead, he gets the troops out by say the end of the year, I think he ruined himself politically.

Interviewer: How would you characterize the events on campus, the movement itself as violent, nonviolent; if you pick either one, why?

Parkin: I think the events on the campus have been non-violent almost one hundred percent. The leaders of this, a lot of them, such as Clyde Brown, Tom Potts are past the point where they want any violence at all and I think we've been very lucky to be nonviolent. I think we can remain non-violent because the students realize that the only good impact they are going to have is if they are non-violent. Once they get violent they are not going to have any type of impact at all as far as getting something accomplished.

Interviewer: Many times, the accusations brought against the student government is that they're ineffectual, they're simply window dressing or whatever the administration wants to do, they are not at all relevant to the needs or wants of the students. How would you evaluate the GSB on this campus? And if it has become effective, what reason would you give for it?

Parkin: I think I can bring opposition to your point that student government is just a window dressing for what the administration wants

by saying that the student government on this campus did pass the strike, or act upon the strike which of course the administration did not want. We've done a lot against the administration, a lot of things during the past few weeks. I think the administration realizes they need this slap in the face every once in awhile, if you'd call it that. I've talked to a number of them that say they understand that. I'd say we've represented the students who have shown concern and have not been apathetic. We did not receive comment at all from the students who were for Nixon's movement into the war and I think they well knew that GSB would be bringing this up in their meeting when they voted on the strike and the option of classes. I think the only students we really heard from were the students who were interested in stopping the war, interested in the peace movement. I think we've been very effective as far as organizing this activity, keeping students involved, getting more students and more townspeople and faculty members involved. I've been very impressed with the way GSB as a whole has reacted to this thing. We've come up far above any expectations of anybody, as far as our effectiveness and our work in that area.

Interviewer: Is this perhaps because you finally connected up with the cause of it, the thing that is relevant both on the local level and national level and do you feel that you're doing something useful; could you say for example, get the same reaction out of GSB for hiring and firing of a basketball coach?

Parkin: I think that, of course, my personal opinion is a little bit biased, but I think GSB has always been relevant but something

like this gets a little or a lot more coverage than say establishing a course instructor evaluation or something like this. I think if we did work with the hiring or firing of a basketball coach we would again get publicity, probably not to the extent of this because so many more people are concerned with this than they would be with something like that.