

McCrary Outlines Sewanee Stand On Sit-Ins, Relation to Claramont

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SEWANEE, Tenn. -- The position of the University of the South's administration in relation to the "sit-ins" at Claramont Restaurant, and the university's relation to the restaurant, are spelled out in a statement issued late Wednesday by Dr. Edward N. McCrary, vice chancellor of the university.

The text of Dr. McCrary's statement:

"Unlike other universities, the University of the South owns all of the land around it for miles. It owns the entire town of Sewanee. The town is in the university rather than the university being in the town. It owns all the land. In some cases it owns buildings as well as the land. In a few cases it not merely owns the land and the buildings but also operates the enterprise which utilizes the building. But the university cannot be expected to operate all the enterprises in the community and it does not want to.

"In the case of the bank the university owns the land but neither the building nor the enterprise. In the case of the pressing shop, it owns the land and the building but not the enterprise. In the case of the student union the university owns the land and the building and operates the business itself. This is also true of Gailor Hall, the university dining hall. But these two instances are quite exceptional.

"In general it would be very foolish for the university to try to operate all the business in town. Where we lease a building to a private person we allow him or her to run his own

business as long as he abides by the law of the land and does not violate the terms of the lease.

"The Claramont Restaurant is just such a case. We own the land and the building, but we have no desire to go into the restaurant business, so we lease this property to a private contractor. There is no stipulation in the contract about whom the proprietor may or may not serve any more than there is in the case of the pressing shop. Any decision of that sort is the decision of the proprietor.

"If the university is to influence Mrs. Shoemate at all, it intends to do so only by asking for her cooperation. This it has already done, and she has agreed to serve university students, faculty and official guests without regard to race; but she has not proposed to go beyond that and serve just anyone who presents himself.

"The University of the South is owned by the Episcopal Church which elects 91 per cent of its board of trustees. Any kind of cooperation which the church wants the university to ask of Mrs. Shoemate will certainly be asked for, as it has done in the past. But not just anyone can set himself up as the voice of the church and expect to be obeyed. Yielding to that sort of arbitrary pressure would mean nothing but chaos. In fact the church would have abdicated its ownership if it allowed policy to be dictated by any individual or group other than the bishops, priests and laymen of the board of trustees."