

Dean Quits As Negro Refused Re-Admission

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 30 (UPI)—Dean J. Robert Nelson of the Vanderbilt Divinity School angrily resigned and a dozen ministerial students threatened to quit tonight in protest against the "flat refusal" of the administration to re-admit a Negro sit-down leader.

Three other students announced that they were returning the degrees they received yesterday.

Dr. Nelson said he told Vanderbilt University Chancellor Harvie Branscomb by telephone and letter that his decision not to re-admit the James M. Lawson Jr. was "a discrepancy of gross proportion . . ." Lawson had been suspended from the Vanderbilt Divinity School for participating in Negro sitdown demonstrations against lunch counter segregation.

Branscomb said that he felt it was not in the best interests of the university to re-admit Lawson because it "would initiate a conflict as long as he would be on the campus."

Shortly after Nelson announced his resignation, 12 students said they would withdraw from divinity school and three graduates, Richard F. Dickinson of Glendora, Calif., G. Richard Dulin of Dallas, Texas, and Wilson T. Boots of Ellenwood City, Pa., said they were returning the degrees they received in graduation ceremonies yesterday.

Dickinson said the only reason he, Dulin and Boots received their degrees was with "the understanding that Lawson would be re-admitted."