

Falk Denies Effort To Oust Minorities

By Ray Steele Jr.

Leaders of minority education programs at Fresno State College say the administration of acting President Dr. Karl L. Falk is "attempting to remove" minority races from the campus.

However, Falk insists minority students are welcome at the college, says there are now 1,961 — about 1,100 Negroes and Spanish - surnamed — on campus and "we want more." He also said the college is committed to the Educational Opportunity Program, a special program designed to increase the number of disadvantaged students, mostly minorities, on campus by providing financial aid and special educational assistance.

Falk, acting Executive Vice President Dr. James A. Fikes, La Raza Studies Chairman Elizer Risco - Lozada and Black Studies Program Chairman Richard D. Keyes exchanged charges and explanations about the EOP and other programs for more than 2½ hours last night in the Convention Center Exhibit Hall.

The public forum, sponsored by the Fresno Urban Coalition,

drew about 800 persons, most of them FSC students and faculty members.

Although none of the problems facing minority education was resolved, the door to better communication between the two groups was opened somewhat.

Keyes said there has been no formal attempt to remove minorities from campus, but "conditions have been created" under which "there is no doubt most won't have the ambition to come back next year."

He said actions by the administration and some faculty members has created anxieties and frustrations among minority students.

Risco-Lozada said minorities' problems not only deal with

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Food Poisoning Strikes 18 At Pacific College

Eighteen Pacific College students were stricken with food

Falk: Denies Charge

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problems with the administration but with faculty and administrators "attitudes and a willingness to listen" to students. He said violence has been minimal, "but it is not because the issues aren't there."

Falk, who is accompanied by an armed bodyguard on campus and at public appearances, said there are "plenty of frustrations on both sides." He accused the press of fostering some of the misinformation and distrust between the two groups.

He cited a report in The Bee Jan. 6 in which he reportedly told a local men's club philosophies surrounding the Ethnic Studies Program were on a collision course with the administration. He said the remark, "made at a supposedly closed meeting where a reporter showed up," was based on several "ifs."

"There are times when the press itself intensifies problems for us," he said.

LA Times Article

Falk was asked several questions about a Los Angeles Times article in which he analyzed the situation on campus. Twice he said he was misquoted.

Asked if the rhetoric he used in the article helped to foster understanding, he replied:

"How does calling the administration racist pigs foster understanding? I feel if the press would quit reporting for a couple of weeks, things could be resolved. Everytime you open your mouth, you're misquoted."

He also said a statement in the Times in which he reportedly said the campus is beset by a revolution-minded, "Marxist-militant influence, almost Maoist" among faculty and students was a misquote.

In prepared remarks, Falk said the college will have an EOP program and Ethnic Studies Program in the fall and "regardless of what you hear we

are seeking additional minority students and more minority students are welcome."

He denied charges the college is trying "to make minority students into white students" rather than providing them with an atmosphere of education within their respective cultures.

"Individuals or groups who are saying the institution is trying to wreck black culture are confusing the fact that certain minimum standards of higher education must be maintained . . ." he said.

"We are in the business of providing education and professional training for all students. We are not providing indoctrination. Community action, organization and development of minority political power may be important in achieving minority aims, but they can't be achieved on the campus at the expense of academic curriculum."

Key To Differences

Risco-Lozada said community action is the key to the philosophical differences between the administration and minorities. He said the college "thinks nothing of the Ag school" developing a new variety of grape of a new harvester.

"Chicanos are interested in organizing farm workers and obtaining justice in this valley," he said. "To spend part of our time teaching some methods is serving the community we were hired to represent. If it can't be done academically, then there is a false consciousness and twisted sense of academic integrity."

Falk said minority education programs at many colleges are having problems and said there is a need for them to be evaluated, examined and strengthened. Twice he said individuals may "come and go, but programs go on."

As for communication, Falk said groups may use a different definition and asked: "If you and I talk and agree on some issues and disagree on others, haven't we communicated?"

Both the administration and minority program leaders suggested establishing a Minority Council on Education to advise them on the program. However, Falk said there is disagreement on who should serve on the panel.

Except for some hisses, the meeting was orderly. At one point, a group of Americans of Mexican descent urged the crowd to leave but only followers of the spokesman walked out. Guillermo Martinez, the spokesman and lecturer in the La Raza Studies Program, was escorted to the door by one of four policemen stationed in the building. There was no incident.



By Jayvee

Friday I was in Corcoran at the invitation of BIEL SCHMALLE and his Security Pacific branch for their 10th Anniversary festivities. . . . I met PETE FABRIE the town's jeweler as well as WELTON ADNEY of Pacific Mutual Insurance. . . . With an assist from my VERA, I discovered a gem of a gift shop owned by