

BLACK TAKEOVER



November 10, 1969 at approximately 2 p.m. six-hundred Black students started the occupation of Henion. The occupants of the Administration building shined out unharmed. When the Vice-president Student Senate arrived they made it very clear they wished to talk to Msgr. Driscoll and no one

in the President of the College arrived, he found over one hundred white students standing on the lawn waiting for the encounter. "Well what do we have here," were the words that Msgr. Driscoll greeted Jackson with at that time. The confrontation approximately twenty minutes at which time it was evident that there had been a tremendous lack of communication between the Black Students and the Administration, on the proposed Black Cultural House.



The actual occupation lasted less than eighteen hours, but the tension it built lasted until the following Sunday. On Tuesday at a press conference during which both Jackson and Msgr. Driscoll made statements proved that the BSU and the Administration had not come to an agreement during the hurried hours of the early morning. The conference ended abruptly, or all but ended, as the Black Students walked out of the press conference as Msgr. Driscoll spoke.



Later that week, after long deliberation, the sixteen Black Students were suspended indefinitely, and ordered to leave the college premises by Saturday. The Black Students refused to leave, and several white people showed up in front of Keane Hall to show their support for the Blacks or to see what was going to happen. At approximately eight p.m. Rev. George Clements of Chicago arrived to confer with the Black students and Msgr. Driscoll. In his statements Fr. Clements stated that Loras College, if it succeeded would be the first college to suspend all of its Black students, and it would be looked upon as a crime towards the Black race. He also stated that what Loras College really needed was two hundred Black students instead of only sixteen.



EXIT



The meeting between Fr. Clements and Msgr. Driscoll lasted the entire night. Dr. Giroux, President of Clarke, and J. Bennett Tate, Dean of Students at the U. of D., joined Clements in pressuring Msgr. Driscoll into reversing his decisions as Black students from Clarke, the U. of D. and Iowa City began to join the Loras students on third floor Keane.
At 4:00 A.M. on Sunday Msgr. Driscoll reversed his decision.

