

# Kerr Is Resigning At U. of California; Aide Also Leaving



Clark Kerr

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Special to The New York Times

BERKELEY, Calif., March 9—Clark Kerr announced today his intention to resign as president of the University of California. Martin Meyerson announced that he would resign as acting chancellor of the Berkeley campus.

Neither man would answer questions beyond the brief statements handed out at a hurriedly convened news conference in University Hall, where Mr. Kerr has his offices.

Mr. Kerr, 53 years old, is responsible for the entire seven-campus university system; Mr. Meyerson, 42, for the 27,500-student Berkeley

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# Clark Kerr Will Resign as U. of California Head

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campus. The Berkeley campus was the scene throughout the fall semester of student demonstrations in opposition to university administrative attempts to impose restrictions on campus political activities. The resignations of Mr. Kerr and Mr. Meyerson come at a time when student agitation is at its lowest point in this academic year.

At the news conference, Mr. Meyerson handed out a statement that criticized the leaders of the current student protests. For about 10 days, through signs and loudspeakers, some students have argued that they have a right to utter four-letter words not ordinarily used in polite conversation.

"The four-letter-word signs and utterances had a significance beyond their shock impact," said Mr. Meyerson's statement. "They also symbolized intolerance for the rights and feelings of others."

Because this statement was issued in the relatively much more important atmosphere of the resignation announcements, observers considered that Mr. Kerr and Mr. Meyerson were taking this opportunity to suggest indirectly that the student agitations had played a part in their decisions to resign.

Gov. Edmund G. Brown, however, placed the blame for the resignations directly on the students. After conferring with Mr. Kerr by telephone, the Governor issued a statement in Sacramento saying:

"I intend to do everything within my power to see that he rescinds his action of resigning as president of the university.

"I think it's a terrible shame



Associated Press  
**Martin Myerson is resigning as acting chancellor.**

that a few thoughtless students led by a handful of troublemakers can hurt the reputation of the greatest public university in the world and cause its brilliant president and a hard-working new chancellor to resign."

Both men said that they would resign at the meeting of the University of California Board of Regents on March 26. This will end almost 20 years of association with the university for Mr. Kerr. He became chancellor at Berkeley in 1952 and led the university faculty through the controversies arising out of a loyalty-oath requirement. He became president

of the multicampus university in 1958.

Mr. Kerr has been mentioned frequently during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations as a potential appointee to a Cabinet-rank position. Last December, it was reported that he had turned down the post of Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. He also has been suggested for positions in the Labor Department and other Federal Divisions.

Outside his academic accomplishments, Mr. Kerr has won a national reputation in labor mediation and arbitration.

Mr. Meyerson became acting chancellor on the resignation of Edward P. Strong. Mr. Meyerson has been a member of the Berkeley faculty since July, 1953, when he became head of the College of Environmental Design. Since his selection as acting chancellor, the student demonstrations have gradually lost their force.

"The Regents should have an opportunity to reorganize this, the oldest and largest campus," Dr. Meyerson said in explaining his resignation.

"I am pleased with what my colleagues and I have been able to accomplish in building the respect of all segments of our academic community for each other," he added.

The student disturbances at the university began in late September and continued through December, gaining and losing strength as the university administration made various countermoves.

The high point of student solidarity came in early December, when about 800 students left a noon rally to begin a sit-in demonstration in Sproul Hall, the principal administration building. They were forc-

bly removed by police authorities called in by Gov. Edmund G. Brown.

This was the high point of the Free Speech Movements influence on the students. A student strike gained some faculty support, and other faculty support came in a meeting of the Academic Senate. By the Christmas recess, however, the support of the Free Speech Movement had begun to fade.

Observers believed that President Kerr had survived the turmoil arising from the student demonstrations. Mario Savio, a leader and principal spokesman of the Free Speech Movement, did not enroll in the university for the second semester, which began in February.

Mr. Kerr firmly refused to answer questions about the reasons for his resignation. He said only that he had not accepted another job.

In Los Angeles, however, the chairman of the Board of Regents said that the board had applied no pressure to get the resignation.

"It was with regret that I learned today from Clark Kerr of his decision to resign as president of the University of California," said Edward W. Carter, the chairman.