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# WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

PULLMAN, WASHINGTON 99163

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 6, 1970

## A Letter From Glenn Terrell

The decision to call off classes and send a telegram to President Nixon came after an hour and a half conference with the Executive Committee of the University Council (comprised of faculty, students, and staff), the University Vice Presidents, and the Student Senate.

Let me say that I reached these decisions believing unequivocally that they were wise decisions. I am not defensive about them nor do I make any apologies for either of them. Let's discuss briefly the decision to write to President Nixon. I did agree to write and did write to indicate that many on the campus were angered over this decision. This is a statement of fact.

With respect to the cancellation of classes and the teach-in, I made this decision free of any threat of violence by the assembled students if this action were not taken. Rather, I made it because I became convinced as I talked with faculty, students, and administrative advisors that this would be a constructive way for the WSU community to exchange views about the pro's and con's of the war and a far better way of letting off steam than through the destructive actions which have occurred on so many campuses. I have urged those organizing the teach-in to achieve a balance of those opposing and those supporting the extension of the war in Cambodia.

I realize that there will be those who will oppose the cancellation of classes. This decision was made with the concurrence of the Chairman of the Faculty Executive Committee and the Chairman of the Educational Policies Committee. I do not believe that the quality of an education can be measured in terms of how many hours of traditional classes and laboratories a student attends. I honestly believe that a constructive program outlining the pro's and con's of the Cambodian affair in circumstances where the institution's undivided attention is given these events will be a valuable and significant learning experience and an effective way to externalize tensions for those who attend. The extraordinary act of cancelling classes in my opinion is justified by the grave mood that exists not only on this campus but throughout the entire nation.

Some will say that, if a university agrees to these demands, they will be pressured to agree to others also. I do not subscribe to that position. In the past we have rejected requests that we regard not to be in the best interest of this University. We shall continue to do so. Furthermore, it is to the credit of our students that they have accepted these decisions without violent reaction, e. g., the decision not to abolish military recruiting and credit for ROTC.

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Finally, I wish to state to the campus and to the entire State that we shall continue to adhere to the principles of our basic document on freedom of expression and accompanying responsibilities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn Terrell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Glenn Terrell  
President

GT:sjm