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Strikers Say Radicals In Minority

By Bob Brickhouse

Like thousands of other students across the country, John Untereker, a 20-year-old junior and captain of the basketball team at Massachusetts' Williams College, is on strike, supporting a demand for withdrawal of all U. S. troops from Southeast Asia.

He describes his past history in the antiwar movement as "tokenism," saying he felt a brief flurry of excitement over the Oct. 15 moratorium, which he soon forgot.

But of the strike in which he joined with 1,150 of Williams' 1,300 students last Monday (the day four Kent State University students were fatally shot by Ohio National Guardsmen), he says, "I am more committed to this than anything else in my whole life. This is the first time I have had an opportunity to let other people know how I feel about the war."

To Be Marshals

Untereker was here with two other Williams students yesterday, preparing for tomorrow's scheduled antiwar demonstration in Washington, where they will act as "marshals," determined to keep the protest peaceful, because, they agree, "that's the way the majority of the students feel."

They are not entirely certain, however, that it will be peaceful. But, as Bruce Irvine, a 20-year-old junior from Los Angeles, put it, "We'll be trying to get away from moral hysteria and be dynamically positive."

Untereker and Irvine came to Richmond with Jack Sands, a prelaw student who is the son of Oliver J. Sands Jr., a local financial consultant.

The three feel that a majority of the country's students



Staff Photo by Don Pennell

Bruce Irvine (from left), John Untereker and Jack Sands
Trio Said This Is the First Time They Have Been Actively Involved

Radicals Held in Minority

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are now ready to be "mobilized" and to "work within the system instead of without it" against the war. And in the coming weeks, they plan to

As a start, Sands wanted to speak about the war to students at his "old school," St. Christopher's, in the West End.

Wearing a coat and a tie, and travel to various schools, help organize the movement and ex-joining the strike.

the red armband insignia of the student strike, he addressed a weekly discussion assembly of the high school's juniors and seniors yesterday.

He told them that "a tiny minority of radical revolutionists" on the campuses have often been "falsely presented as the mouth pieces of the majority."

"Too often those in the mainstream of college life have held their conviction and beliefs in check while the radical element has advocated hate, distrust and violence," he said. "In a very real sense, there existed a silent majority on the campuses also. After so many years of misunderstanding and abuse this slumbering body has awoken."

When the slumbering body awoke at Williams, all but 12 to 15 per cent of it voted to go on strike, he said. The faculty left the decision of whether or not to strike to the individual students and gave those that struck until the coming Oct. 15 to meet all course requirements.

Demands Listed

The striking students endorsed the following demands of the Nixon administration: withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Cambodia and from Southeast Asia; cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam and of "the government's systematic repression of dissident groups."

"To be serious about this thing," Untereker said, "we realized we couldn't just sit down and finish up our papers and tests."

So, committees of strikers were formed, to help spread

the movement to Alumni, congressman, other campuses and most important, to "middle America."

The three say they hope faculties on all campuses will "transcend their political views" and allow students to follow their consciences about plain how the strike at Williams was coordinated.

They say there is more optimism now among students about making their voices heard that at any time in the past. According to Sands, "There's a feeling that we're not out there alone any more."

"It was amazing," Irvine recalled. "Spring at Williams is usually a time when you sit on the lawn and play bridge."