

University of Essex

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PRESS STATEMENT

As a result of incidents last Tuesday in which Dr. T. D. Inch, who had been invited by the University of Essex Chemical Society to lecture on chemical and biological properties of toxic chemicals, was prevented by a group of students from delivering his lecture, and subsequently jostled and abused, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. Albert Sloman, has today rusticated three students until 19th June 1968. The Senate of the University will consider any further disciplinary action to be taken against the students.

Dr. Sloman commented that he had taken this action as executive head of the University, with responsibility for maintaining its efficiency and good order. Free speech, he said, was an essential constituent of an academic society. Free speech implied, of course, the freedom to dissent from views expressed, but it also implied the freedom of an invited speaker to express his views and the freedom of his audience to hear them. Dr. Sloman added that the University had issued a warning in March that it would treat with extreme seriousness any actions which could be construed as attempts to limit freedom of expression within the University.

10th May 1968

A. Rowland-Jones
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