2129 BOYLAN

Thursday October 19
and After:
It's Like 'Roshomon'

"The further we get into our study of
the events of Thursday, October 19, the
more I am reminded of the Japanese
story, 'Roshomon,'" Philosophy Professor
Martin E. Lean, Chairman of Faculty
Council's Committee of Seven, told a
meeting of parents in Whitman Auditorium
on November 1. In the tale, a
number of witnesses to an alleged crime
each tell such conflicting stories that
what actually happened becomes more
and more obscure.

While the Committee, consisting of
Professors Duke, Stahl, Weston, Larson,
Boyer, and Browne, has been spending
long hours talking to students and faculty
members in an attempt to submit a
report to Faculty Council prior to the
Christmas holidays, the issues of the episo
de which made headlines around the
world have been debated hotly on the
campus and in the editorial columns of
the metropolitan newspapers. Persisting
amidst discussions of freedom of speech,
the right of protest, student power,
police brutality, and the question of military
recruiters on the campus has been the
repeated question: "Who called the police?"

Although the situation is far more
complex than this, the only answer so
far, based on available information, is
that a four-man police detail . . . asked
on Tuesday prior to the eventful Thurs
day to stand by in case of trouble . . .
its own summoned the additional police
when one policeman was interfered with
in attempting to remove Jeffrey Gordon
from a throng of demonstrating students.
Meanwhile, the local police have declined
to make available to the Committee of

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Seven a copy of the official police report. What purports to be a "copy" of the official report — which gives the name of a college official who "called" the police — has been circulated among newspapers and elsewhere. However, a check with the mayor's office, which has a copy of the official report, did not confirm the designation of the individual. And the local precinct has no record of a telephone call from the college on October 19. The Committee has made a formal request to Police Commissioner Leary for a copy of the report.

Here are some of the highlights of what has taken place in the weeks since October 19:

- A six-point agreement calling for commitments not to summon the police for internal campus matters, revising student suspension procedures, banning corridor locations for recruiters and intercession on behalf of those arrested ended a three-day partially effective boycott of classes.
- President Francis P. Kilcoyne was successful in having two out of three charges dropped against 40 arrested students despite vigorous protests of the District Attorney.
- The District Attorney in a surprise move asked that the accused students be brought before a three-judge panel on February 19 — a tactic usually engaged in only by defense lawyers.
- Information quoting Jeffrey Gordon's (self-proclaimed member of the pro-Maoist Progressive Labor Party) explanation of his role as an attempt to block the administration and the "enemy state", and linking the B.C. episode to a national plan proposed by Students for a Democratic Society, was released in the SGS student newspaper ken.
- Peking and Hanoi news service dispatches and The Worker hailed the event and the ensuing strike as a victory of "worker-students" over the "fascistic administration."
- Top-ranking police officers in a meeting with college officials explained that in actuality the college cannot prevent the police from coming on the campus if a citizen, or student, should call, or if the police themselves believe they should be here in the execution of their duty to protect life and property.

- President Kilcoyne recommended to the Chancellor of the City University that a meeting be held with top-ranking university and police officials to work out College-Police relations for the future.
- The President said in an address to the faculty that "far-reaching" policy changes for B.C. may be in order and that he has asked the Committee of Seven to submit recommendations as part of its report.
- The visits of several controversial recruiters — including the CIA — have been postponed pending the report of the committee. (President Kilcoyne has indicated his opposition to canceling visits of any recruiters.)
- President Kilcoyne took exception to Mayor Lindsay's terming B.C. "Berkeley East" and later explained that he believed this label was grossly unfair to the B.C.'s 28,000 students whose main goal is education and not ideological protest.
- Students explained in interviews with reporters that the October 19 episode was actually not a demonstration against the war or the Navy.
- The Vice President of Student Council told a parent meeting that "not more than 200 left-wing activists exist on the B.C. campus," but that the students resent "being treated like numbers" and that this sentiment, plus the presence of police, had led to the trouble.
- President Kilcoyne released information stating that students from other campuses had come to the B.C. campus to participate in rallies during the boycott, and that among the students arrested was a non-student who is Youth Director of the New York State Communist Party.

The President defined the planned incident that set off the episode (the physical interference with an officer), and the subsequent boycott in which a "small, resident core" of students "blitzed" the elected student government as a "low blow, a body blow, but one that we have recovered from." He said that what happened on the B.C. campus could happen anywhere in the country, but he insisted he did not want "any bonafide Brooklyn College student to have a police record as a result — even if some of them now think they would not mind."

Commenting on the series of events, one observer said, "It has been like a death in the family that should draw us all closer together."

D.B.P.