



Candidate Wallace At OU

By John Prescott

"Be prepared to discuss chapter one of Rossiter. If you have not gone over your reference material I suggest you do so."

Dr. Richard Marvel's opening phrases to his 1:30 political science class were probably the strangest prelude to any speech here-to-fore given by presidential hopeful George Wallace.

On Monday, the first protesters took their places two hours before Wallace arrived.

Most of the area media had representatives on campus by 1 p.m. Several Omaha Police cruisers were parked by the Engg. Bldg., and cars were cleared from the area where Wallace's motorcade was to park.

By 1:30 p.m., 500 people had gathered in the parking lot to observe, protest, or perform in the line of duty.

Meanwhile, in Engg. 259, class was being called to order.

Discussion in the first 18 minutes of class concerned the eight possible contenders for the presidency.

At twelve minutes to two, noise outside the window and a roar from the crowd let the class know that George Wallace was at OU.

The crowd was in a carnival mood. The vast majority of students and others had come out of curiosity, judging from the smiling faces and humorous-sarcastic signs.

Surrounded by a half-dozen burly guards, Wallace got out of the car and was quickly escorted inside. Not quickly enough, however, to avoid the dozen or so students who thrust picket signs at him and booed as he disappeared through the south door.

Many of the crowd followed Wallace to the second floor. They could not gain entrance to the class which contained only those enrolled and about ten guests of Dr. Marvel.

do-intellectuals, those who march on the pentagon and make speeches on college campuses advocating a communist victory in Vietnam."

"The Pseudo-intellectual says choice is good if you choose correctly. He says we must disobey bad laws and obey good ones. I say that's anarchy".

At this point the chanting and stomping reached a high level of coordination. "Ungowah . . . Black Power" echoed in the room.

"If I get to be president," said the ever-cool Wallace pointing a finger at the door, "and one of these anarchists lays down in front of my car, it will be the last one he lays under." Applause from the class.

What about racism?

Wallace stated that 87 1/2% of the Negro voters in Selma, Alabama went for Wallace in the 1966 Governor's race.

Wallace said, "We've had more mixin' and minglin' in Alabama than in the rest of the Country."

"Two Negro families live on the same block as the Governor's Mansion."

What about Viet Nam?

"France says we're in an immoral war, but it sure wasn't immoral when we fought the Germans over there."

"We're not going to carry your load alone."

"We ought to have some eyeball to eyeball talks," said Wallace, "You're going to help us or begin paying some World War I debts." Applause.

He summed up Vietnam by saying "We are there, we have to come out honorably."

Meanwhile, the crowd in the hall had thinned considerably. Most had gone outside to the proposed Wallace departure point.

Inside, Wallace was making his closing remarks.

"In my judgment I will capture more Omaha Democrats than Republicans, but that's only a guess."

He concluded "... get rid of some of these brief-case totin' bureaucrats, throw some of those brief cases in the Potomac River." Applause.

The crowd waited outside the south door, but inside a decision had been made to sneak Wallace out the back.

But as the Wallace party emerged, the sneak play was discovered and the crowd ran at the 1968 Ford containing the candidate.

One group formed a human chain to block the drive. Police began trying to break a hole in the crowd.

Eventually a Wallace man sat on one of the Ford's fenders and an Omaha policeman took the other. They then were able to make a path.

A half-dozen people began beating on the Ford's rear deck. But by that time it was all they could do. The path was decently clear and the car disappeared . . . somewhat exceeding OU's 15 M.P.H. speed limit.

It took no more than ten minutes for the crowd to disperse. Some trickled back to the OUamp Room, and a good many went back to Creighton, or just went.

The speaker talked for 25 minutes. Dr. Marvel's 1:30 Political science class broke five minutes early.

