

Student Quits, Hits News School

Says U. W. Teaches '1920 Journalism'

(Fred Names U. W. Study Committee,
Page 8)

Charging that the University of Wisconsin's vaunted school of journalism is "stagnant," "obsolete," and full of "padding," one of its high-ranking senior students announced today that he was getting out.

The school, he asserted, is teaching "1920 journalism."

In a column in the campus newspaper, Robert Sollen, Menominee, revealed he was withdrawing along with some of the school's "top students."

Writes Open Letter

"We've had enough," he informed Director Grant Hyde in an open letter in the Daily Cardinal.

Accusing Hyde of brushing aside criticism with "your time-worn 'he - doesn't - know - what - he's - talking - about' treatment," Sollen claimed that:

"There is a tremendous amount of 'padding' in our J-school curriculum."

"The instruction of the school's most 'venerable' educators" is "a nerve-wracking or boring waste of time."

"Your policy is to teach 1920 journalism. The profession is dynamic, changing; too much of your instruction is stagnant, obsolete."

With the permission of the dean of the college of letters and science, Sollen transferred this week to the department of political science. He predicted that "several" other students also would leave the school after the end of this semester.

"The school always is losing some of its poorest students; that's just as you'd expect," he told The State Journal today. "But when it starts losing some of the students at the top of its classes, it better sit up and take notice."

In the five journalism courses he has completed, Sollen received three As and two Bs.

Complaining that in the journalism school "there is no room for discussion except in the classes of some of the more recent instructors," Sollen exempted from his criticism Dr. Dean Kuydendall who left the school this summer after one year on the staff; Scott Cutlip, now devoting most of his time to serving as Pres. Fred's public relations aide; Dr. Henry Smith, Bruce Westley, and Lester Hawkes, instructors.

'Criticism Building Up'

Conceding that Hyde had built "a top-ranking school," Sollen challenged him to bring it up to date but added "I know there will be no change. It is my opinion you have little to offer beyond the basic courses. I'm leaving."

A group of other journalism students, commenting today on Sollen's charges, remarked that "this criticism has been building up for many years; why doesn't Hyde call in some of his students and give us a chance to discuss the school's policies?"

(At a press conference discussion of the projected detailed study of the university's "functions and policies," Pres. Fred and Dean M. H. Ingraham of the college of letters and science said that students will be given an opportunity to present their views to the committee undertaking the survey.)

Hyde was out of the city and not available for comment.