

# Vanderbilt Faces More Departures

NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 10 (AP) — Vanderbilt University today faced the possibility of more faculty resignations after efforts last night apparently failed to resolve a conflict which grew out of a racial issue.

Divinity School Dean J. Robert Nelson, who with 10 other faculty members resigned when Vanderbilt refused to readmit expelled Negro divinity student James M. Lawson, said last night Chancellor Harvie Branscomb had offered to resign if certain conditions involving the case were not met.

Lawson was expelled for his sit-in demonstration activities last March.

Branscomb, in Williamsburg, Va., said he made no such offer "for publication." Nelson said the statement was made in a letter which, though unsigned, was attested to and witnessed by another professor "as having been dictated by Branscomb."

Also, there were unconfirmed reports that six members of the medical school faculty were considering tendering their resignations.

Meanwhile, the Chicago Theological Seminary has offered jobs to Nelson and the 10 professors. It also offered a position to Dr. Walter J. Harrelson, dean of the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Harrelson, who declined the deanship at Vanderbilt when Branscomb and the resigning faculty failed to come to an agreement, also resigned a professorship at the school which he had earlier accepted.

A CTS spokesman said the 12 men would retain their academic ranks at the Chicago institution.

One CTS official said staff openings are available due to the pending breakup of a plan whereby University of Chicago theologians have taught at CTS.

Nelson said he had not been notified of the offer and declined to comment on it.

The letter Nelson said he received from Branscomb proposed that Branscomb would recommend to the board of trust that Lawson be given a bachelor of divinity degree upon successful completion of the university's requirement "to the satisfaction of the divinity school faculty.

"If under these conditions the degree is refused," Nelson quoted the letter as saying, "the chancellor shall offer his resignation, together with the resignations of many members of the university faculty."

Nelson said he and the faculty members, university officials and board members conferred several hours last night but were unable to reach agreement.

Nelson said he replied to the chancellor's letter that the issue could not be settled until Lawson is constrained to complete work on his degree, and all faculty resignations are returned.

"The university has informed us these terms are rejected," Nelson said.