

FIVE-DAY SIT-IN AT McCORMICK SEMINARY ENDS

Dissidents Go as Court Threat Is Lifted

The five-day occupation of the McCormick Theological seminary ended last night as dissident community groups withdrew from the administration building at 800 Belden av. The decision to leave came soon after the seminary president changed his mind about seeking a court injunction today to halt the sit-in.

Dr. Arthur McKay, seminary president, had called for the groups protesting the seminary's role in social problems of the community to vacate the building and leave the campus as "an act of good faith" so negotiations between the dissidents and the seminary could begin.

Names of Groups

The groups that seized the campus Tuesday night called themselves the Poor People's Coalition and included representatives of the Young Lords, and Young Patriots street gangs, the Concerned Citizens of the Survival Front, the Latin American Defense Organization, and the Welfare Mothers of Wicker Park.

They demanded that the seminary invest \$601,000 in endowment funds in low cost housing in the community, help build a day care center, provide funds for legal defense of community residents and become more involved in other community social problems.

McKay termed the demands as genuine and said the seminary shares the concern of the sit-in leaders with the plight of the poor. He said classes would reopen in the seminary today and discussions with the dissident groups would begin this week.

Will Invest \$125,000

He said the seminary decided last year to invest 30 per cent of its unrestricted endowment in the community. Seminary officials will meet with the groups to consider investment of \$125,000 of remaining funds in community projects, he said.

In a rally held before the coalition vacated the building representatives of the various occupation groups gave brief speeches praising the seminary officials for recognizing the needs of the poor. A minute of silence was observed by 200 persons in the administration building auditorium in memory of Michael Ramos, 20, who was killed by an off-duty policeman on May 4 while involved in a disturbance.

Luis Cuza, spokesman for the dissident groups, said the seminary has taken a major step in recognizing the need for institutions to accept the leadership of community people who are affected by such institutions.