

Johnson Explains Cancelling Action

University of Arizona Vice President Marvin D. Johnson said today he cancelled the room reservation for a 1968 war protest because the supposed sponsoring group knew nothing of the plan.

Johnson testified in the civil suit against five UA administrators over the university's refusal to allow "Vietnam Commencement" participants onto the campus.

He said that Quentin Branch, then head of the university-recognized Student Peace Association told him the peace group had not authorized such an activity. Johnson said he cancelled reservations made in their name.

About 13 days before the convocation was scheduled to be held, Johnson testified, Mitchell Axler and Ronald London, both plaintiffs, asked him to reconsider, saying the campus group now was sponsoring the activity. Johnson said he denied the request.

Besides Axler and London, those seeking \$30,000 each in damages are Richard A. Handverge, Betsy McDonald, UA faculty members, Dr. Robert W. Bretall and Dr. Paul Martin, and Dr. Donald Kalish, a University of California professor.

Defendants are Johnson, UA President Richard A. Harvill, Vice President Robert L. Houston, campus security chief Douglas Paxton and Thomas L. Hall, legal adviser to the Arizona Board of Regents.

Kalish yesterday said he was invited to speak to the commencement honoring all those who refused induction into the military, and was served a Superior Court restraining order prohibiting access to the campus May 28, 1968.

Harvill said it was a fear of violent reaction from anti-protest elements that led him to seek the restraining order. He added that he thought the name commencement was inappropriate for the event.