Philip Nordquist interviewed by Joy Barber on April 18, 2000

Audio is difficult to understand in parts of the interview, mainly at the end of the interview.

MOORING MAST: Mortvedt held a meeting about the April 22nd issue in 1966. Three people from the Mooring Mast were spoken about. Mortvedt believed the article was tasteless and so were the pictures. He was angry about the articles on sexual morals and pregnancy. Mortvedt went to Neil Waters and demanded an apology. Mortvedt gave the newspaper freedom compared to Eastvold. Nordquist believed the article had the right intentions; it was just not executed well. Mortvedt was angry with everyone in the Mast. He expressed great power and anger, but neither side would give in. He did not shut down the paper and the student body was torn between both sides. Mortvedt was upset with the articles because they were not Christian based and did not represent the school well. Nordquist did not think Mortvedt was in touch with the whole range of students.

TALK OF CHANGE: Faculty was talking about change both on campus and off campus. Older faculty members had a hard time changing fast enough and the younger faculty members wanted change to happen too fast. Students began to have more voice in campus activities. There were efforts to know what was to be put in the Mast. Pacific Lutheran University communicated through religiosity. Students pushed for more freedom during Mortvedt's time. Students today take for granted their freedoms.

WHAT THE PAPER SHOULD BE: Mortvedt believed it should be grammatically correct and well written. The paper should be smart, appropriate and not vulgar. He did not want the paper to affect the Christian tradition on campus. He never gave specific examples of how the paper was to be written. Humor was okay, but not if it was vulgar.

MORTVEDT CHANGING: He was pushed hard while he was President at Pacific Lutheran University. It was hard for him to change because he was President when he was in his 60s. His attitude did not change much, and knew when it was time for him to retire. Mortvedt liked when people would come and discuss issues with him, but never advocated sharing the leadership role. It was a descending authority on campus. Mortvedt was angry with the change of authority in the Faculty Council meetings. This change made faculty more responsible in their actions.

EXPECTATIONS OF FACULTY: Mortvedt expected faculty to support his view on the Mast issue. Not all faculty members did side with him. Don Reynolds did not agree with Mortvedt, he was not happy because he did not feel Pacific Lutheran University was academic enough. Mortvedt was disappointed that not all faculty members supported him in the Mast issue. Many faculty members were neutral while others took the students' side.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS: Nordquist believes that students make many mistakes and do not always know what they are doing. However they must be treated as adults because they will be graduating soon. Mortvedt did not want to share his power, but would talk to students and be with them. He did not think students should receive unlimited freedom. Mortvedt listened to one conservative student as the voice of Pacific Lutheran University students. He was very formal and this can make students uncomfortable. Nordquist believed that Waters wrote very well in the Mast and Mortvedt did not always recognize it.

STUDENTS VIEW OF MORTVEDT: He was very formal and would speak at chapel and commencement. All his speeches were formal and not very emotional. The students would have respected him. Nordquist did not believe that Mortvedt impacted the lives of the students. He never spoke to students about emotional issues. His character would have been a role model for everyone.

ADMINISTRATOR: Many presidents resigned quickly during the late 1960s and 1970s. This was not just at Pacific Lutheran University, but throughout the country. Students were able to play a major role in campus

activities. Students became part of committees. Mortvedt promised students that they would have more freedom. The push for student involvement lessened as more student involvement was achieved. The late 60s and early 70s had the highest level of student involvement, both quality and quantity.

MORTVEDT IN THE 60s: It was hard for Mortvedt because there was a lot of change during the 1960s. He might have been more flexible if the change came a little bit slower. During the time of change the students were involved. There were many meetings that involved student life that students were not part of. Students wanted to be more involved.

CONSERVATIVE CAMPUS: Pacific Lutheran University was more conservative than the Lutheran homes the students were coming from. Mortvedt was conservative, and came from the same branch of religious practice as Eastvold. Mortvedt had some changes like compulsory chapel.

CLOSING THOUGHTS: Mortvedt hired Nordquist. Mortvedt was important to the transitional phase of Pacific Lutheran University. It was too bad it happened during the 1960s. Any president during a time of change will have a hard time. Curriculum was important to Mortvedt.