Decision Against Permitting NMU Black Students To Leave Early To Be Considered Anew

By DON HOLMEN of The Panex Newspapers

LANSING - Legislative leaders in higher education here said Northern Michigan University might reverse its decision barring black students from leaving the university without penalty before the semester ends.

They said an agreement for Dr. John X. Jamrich, university president, to poll the faculty was reached over lunch here Wednesday.

It eliminated 24 hours of meetings and news conferences for Jamrich on the first floor of the capital and 10 members of the Black Students Association on the third floor.

Jamrich said in Marquette this morning that "whether a poll is necessary will be determined after considering the matter again." He said he will notify black legislators of his decision on the black student matter Friday morning.

Wanted Immediate Decision

Rep. Vincent J. Pettipren (D-Westland), chairman of the House Committee on Colleges and Universities, said the students here were "very discouraged."

"They wanted some immediate decision allowing them to leave school now with either the grades they've earned up to this point or some arrangements made to complete their work later," Pettipren said. "The black students threatened to pull out immediately. We prevailed upon them to wait until Thursday night after the faculty poll is completed."

Revised List Of Demands

He said the results of the poll of the 250 faculty members would not be binding upon Jamrich but that it would be used with other factors in his final decision.

"At this point, Jamrich will reconsider," Pettipren said.

The students, led by Patrick Williams of Saginaw, president of the Black Students Association, came to Lansing with a revised list of 14 demands last Friday.

Decision Reversed

Jamrich came to Lansing Tuesday to confer with the Senate on budget matters and stayed over to tell his side of the story.

The students claim they have been under tension and harassment for six months since a black student was charged with having a girl in his dormitory room.

The student, Charles Griffis, was convicted by the Student Judiciary, and the decision was reversed by the Faculty-Student Judiciary acting as an appeals court.

Charges Disputed

From that point there was a black student-sit-in and a demonstration by both whites and blacks as a memorial to Kent State University students killed in demonstrations on the Ohio campus.

Williams claims the black students at NMU have been fired upon by whites, the community has been inflamed against them and the tension has made it impossible for them to function as students.

Jamrich said there is no emergency on the campus and disputed point by point the charges leveled by the students.

Resignation Request Rejected

He said the new list of demands contains some he had seen for the first time, including those calling for the resignation or removal of two members of the NMU Board of Control.

They are John P. McGoff, Williamson, because of "racist articles in The Mining Journal," which is owned by Panex Corp., of which he is president, and Joseph J. Gross, East Lansing.

a black who is personnel director for Panex, for "not representing the blacks on the campus and being too busy to talk with us."

McGoff said, "The charges aren't worth answering. I've been a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for 10 years. They can ask for my resignation, but they won't get it."

Appointed By Romney

Gross said that when he was appointed to the board by former Gov. George Romney, he made it clear that he would not represent the people of Michigan.

Gross was on the campus Wednesday talking with black students and administrators and he addressed more than 100 faculty members.

Pettipren said he will ask McGoff and Gross to attend a meeting of the House Colleges and Universities Committee probably next Thursday, together with Jamrich and as many of the students as can make the trip to Lansing.

Full Investigation Asked

Rep. Raymond Hood (D-Detroit), one of the seven members of the legislature's "black caucus," which met with the students here and helped arrange their meeting, yesterday said he has asked Attorney General Frank Kelley to conduct a full investigation of the troubles at Northern.

Jamrich, as he left Lansing, reiterated his stand. He said: "Northern Michigan University is going to stay open until the semester ends on June 6. I will protect every student and faculty member to the best of my ability."

ROYAL VISITORS

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain, who on June 7, 1939, crossed over onto American soil from Canada at Niagara Falls, N.Y., were the first reigning British monarchs to visit the United States.

Ishpeming Kiwanis Club's Pancake Feed On May 30th

ISHPeming — The Kiwanis Club of Ishpeming will hold its 14th annual Memorial Day pancake feeds Saturday, May 30, at the Birchview School from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Proceeds of the sale are used by this community service club in supporting and sponsoring youth activities in the Greater Ishpeming area.

Many Places For Funds

Projects planned this year include buying and erecting a fence at the Kiwanis-built tennis court near the Birchview School and sponsoring Babe Ruth and Little League baseball.

Less Driving Charge

Michael Goldsworthy, 190 Prospect St., arrested on the same charge, paid a total of $20 for both teams. In addition, the club provides funds for a youth to attend "Boy's State" and donations to the Blue Notes, Bay Cliff Health Camp and Boy and Girl Scouts.

Last month, Ishpeming entertained leading scholastic senior students from Ishpeming and National Mine High Schools. The year also has been spent promoting a drug abuse program to inform youths about a black who is personnel director for Panex, for "not representing the blacks on the campus and being too busy to talk with us."

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