

McClellan Case Mediator Assigned By State Board

The State Labor Mediation Board has assigned Robert G. Mason, Grand Rapids, as mediator in a grievance filed by Dr. Robert F. McClellan, assistant professor of history at Northern Michigan University.

The action was taken after processing of a petition McClellan filed with the board regarding the terminal contract given him by the university.

He was notified last July 28 that his contract would be terminated next June 30 because, the university administration said, he had interfered with university practices and policies.

Contacted Attorneys

McClellan denied the charges and has sought to reverse the dismissal. The NMU Board of Control has supported the administration decision to dismiss the professor.

Mason said he has communicated with attorneys for McClellan and for the university board. However, he said, he has not set a date for a meeting with either side and does not know when such a meeting may be scheduled.

McClellan stated in his peti-

tion to the mediation board that his terminal notice "is without just cause" and should be rescinded.

Procedural Steps

Robert G. Howlett, Grand Rapids, chairman of the mediation board, said the petition was accompanied by "117 valid signatures, which is a majority of the 183 full-time members of the faculty of the School of Arts and Science, including 14 department heads who teach half-time and eight faculty on leave."

The public employment relations act provides that grievances shall be mediated if a petition is signed by "a majority of any given group of public employees."

If normal procedure is followed, the mediation board's next step would be to initiate mediation. If mediation fails, the case proceeds to fact finding in which both parties are ordered to attend a hearing, with witnesses and cross examination.

The fact finder then writes a report and makes recommendations. However, acceptance of the recommendations is not mandatory.