

Editor's Mail

(Contributions are invited. Letters should be limited to less than 300 words. Only signed letters will be considered for publication. Personal attacks on individuals will be eliminated.)

Party Concerns

Dear Sir:

In Tuesday's paper there appeared an editorial which said that the controversy at NMU was "not a partisan affair" and that the contribution made by the Democratic State Central Committee to the McClellan Defense Fund was wrong in principle. It went on to say that there were both Democrats and Republicans who support the professor and likewise members of both parties who oppose him.

It is for just this reason — that mixed personal opinion exists — that the central committee's action was right in principle. To obtain justice, a higher court than personal opinion must be sought.

The contribution was made to support the legal testing of a man's rights in a federal court, which is the final arbiter in this country, whose aim is to keep men free. If the political parties in this country are not to be concerned with such an issue as a man's freedom and are not to address themselves to such issues, it leaves one wondering just what they are to concern themselves with. It has always been my impression that representative government, in all of its branches and parties, has as its aims justice and freedom; that when the freedom of one man is threatened, the freedom of all men is threatened. If this is true, then partisan efforts to aid in the procuring of a non-partisan tribunal appear to be the noblest and most significant activities a political party could engage in. It is difficult to conceive of a member of either the Democrat or Republican Party who would claim that justice is not his party's concern.

These views might seem to be idealistic, but then democracy is an idea. When it ceases to be that, it ceases to exist.

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Raps Editorial

Dear Sir:

Tuesday's editorial criticisms of the Democratic State Central Committee and Mr. Ferency were curious in the extreme. One might reasonably anticipate criticism of their Republican counterparts for their failure to

act accordingly.

The Mining Journal has decided that the current controversy at Northern Michigan University is not "partisan"; but this is a meaningless distinction. If political parties are not to be permitted to take stands on crucial public issues, what reason is there for their existence? Clearly, The Mining Journal has taken a stand here; is it fair to deny the same right to the representatives of the people?

Both of our major political parties insist that they are defenders of human rights and democratic values. Are not the Democrats, then, to be congratulated for having committed themselves to that effect? And, as a corollary, ought not the Republican Party and the Republican Governor of our state be criticized for their apathy and failure to take a stand in face of this burning issue?

The Mining Journal's two editorials on the current crisis at Northern seem to me to have missed the point; such cannot be said about the positions of the Democratic State Central Committee and Mr. Ferency.

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"Don't show Daddy your rep about the troubled world!"