

Time To Start Looking Ahead

The all-pervading concern over the McClellan case continues to sprout new tentacles of crises into relations at N.M.U. Latest of the crises to spring forth from the larger one, arose last week in the Student Senate over the issue of Senate expenditure of \$300 of its budget as a donation to the McClellan Defense Fund.

Dean Lowell Kafer, adviser to the Senate, refused to release any of the Senate's budget for use in this manner. He said that under the present system of funding he could not justify authorizing the expenditure of University funds for the purpose of taking court action against the University.

He did, however, indicate a willingness to sit down with a special Senate committee to work out a new funding policy which would put the S.G.A. on a more autonomous financial basis and thus avoid repetition of the impasse over expenditures.

Regrettably, the politically amateurish Senate leadership, presented with this opportunity to make a positive contribution to its own power and to the student body, is doing its best to muffle this chance.

In a fit of pique over Dean Kafer's refusal to authorize the release of the \$300, members of the Senate leadership have been speculating resigning en masse and/or cancel the traditional All-Events Week. This negativism and refusal to make the best of a bad situation is difficult to understand.

The Senate leadership should realize that Dean Kafer's stand on principle is in its way, as admirable and commendable as President Keskey's personal decision to give up his \$300 scholarship as a donation to the McClellan Defense Fund. Given the circumstances of the present funding policy, really what else, in all good conscience could either do?

It is disturbing that the Senate leadership has reacted in the way it has to Dean Kafer's position. We doubt very seriously whether mass resignation from the Senate leadership would, in any way, ameliorate the situation.

If our Senate leaders are indeed leaders, then, having been given this opportunity by Dean Kafer, they should take advantage of it to build a more autonomous funding policy for the Student Government Association.

The NORTHERN NEWS would support a new S.G.A. funding policy which would ensure the right of the Senate to spend its money as it sees fit. A committee should be formed to develop this policy and resolve this issue as expeditiously as possible. The issue of the \$300 has hamstrung the Senate long enough. It is time the Senate disposed of it and moved on to the basis of the problem.

— The Editor