

Laird Completes Property Reappraisal In Negaunee

NEGAUNEE — Reappraisal of the City of Negaunee has been completed, it was announced today by officials of the James R. Laird Co., Inc., professional appraisal firm which was employed by the municipality last spring to do the job.

Taxpayers soon will be able to obtain information regarding their appraised property values, Laird officials revealed. Informal hearings will be held

prior to the March Board of Review sessions for the purpose of giving taxpayers ample opportunity to review their new figures.

No Effect On Tax Rate

Reappraisal will have no effect on either the tax rate or the local amount of taxes levied. It will merely equalize assessments and correct inequities existing among taxpayers.

Establishment of permanent and accurate property record

cards will give the assessor equalized assessment, appraisal officials stressed. Individual taxpayers will not necessarily pay more — or less. The new tax figures will not depend upon the former assessed value of property. Equalized assessment will have the greatest effect on properties which have been drastically out of line in the past.

Immune To Pressure

Appraisal values of city prop-

140 Join McClellan In Action Against NMU Prexy, Board

One hundred and forty members of the Northern Michigan University faculty this week signed a statement which their spokesmen say formally makes them joint complainants with Dr. Robert F. McClellan in his threatened action against the Northern Michigan University president and the NMU board of control.

The announcement was made this morning by the Committee for Defense of Academic Freedom at NMU, an organization of NMU faculty and other interested persons formed last fall to raise money to finance possible court action by McClellan, dismissed assistant history professor, against NMU and its board.

John Frey, CDAF president, said the lawsuit will be filed Monday in federal court in Detroit.

Dismissed By Harden

McClellan, assistant professor of history, will file the suit on the basis of a violation of academic freedom and constitutional right, Frey said. The complaint stems from his dismissal last summer by Dr. Edgar L. Harden, then NMU president. Harden's action was supported by his successor, Ogden E. Johnson, and by NMU's board.

The 140 faculty members have signed a formal statement which will make them joint complainants in McClellan's suit, charging a violation of their academic freedom and constitutional rights through violation of their fellow instructor's rights, according to John

M. Allswang, assistant professor of history and treasurer of the CDAF.

Allswang also said the number already co-signed with McClellan comprises a majority of the fulltime teaching faculty at the university. The total number of faculty is around 260.

The petition signed by the faculty members states they are "concerned about the impact of the summary termination of Dr. McClellan's appointment upon the future of the university," as well as on their "ability to perform our professional duties, and upon our exercise of the right of expression, association and untrammeled inquiry."

The statement also notes "believing that it is essential to the welfare of this institution that Dr. McClellan be reinstated, we hereby join him in the suit against the president and the members of the board of control to secure judicial protection of academic freedom and our constitutional rights as well as his reinstatement."

Attorneys From ACLU

It further authorizes the attorneys of the American Civil Liberties Union, which is providing legal representation for McClellan, to serve as counsel to the faculty members as well.

Allswang said the faculty volunteers who circulated the petition reported that each faculty member made his decision individually and without pressure from any source.

The CDAF treasurer also noted that the 140 signatures

were collected in three days. "It is probable that still more signatures will be forthcoming in the next few weeks," he commented.

Faculty Senate Statement

An informal statement published by the NMU faculty senate in regard to the case authorized circulation of the petition.

The statement reported that at a joint meeting held in January the board of control and faculty senate agreed to set up a joint committee to seek a solution to the McClellan case.

A brief exploratory meeting was held on Jan. 25," the senate statement reads. "The second meeting was twice postponed at the request of the board and has not yet been held."

At a meeting held last Saturday, it continues, the faculty senate met with Ernest Maze, Detroit, executive director of the ACLU of Michigan, and ACLU attorneys.

"The attorneys explained," the statement notes, "that they had thought it best to delay filing suit as long as there appeared to be a reasonable likelihood that the case could be settled satisfactorily through negotiation, but that extended efforts to settle the case without litigation have proved unsuccessful."

Armed Forces

Capt. Dennis W. Jarvi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Veikko A. Jarvi, Rte. 1, Negaunee, recently took part in a successful bombing mission over North Vietnam. Jarvi and his fellow F-105 Thunderchief pilots struck a vital railroad siding, one-and-one-half miles south of Lang Son on the rail link from the north to