

Dr. McClellan's Attorneys File Damage Suit

Attorneys for Dr. Robert McClellan filed suit this week in U. S. District Court here in Marquette against Northern Michigan University's interim president Ogden E. Johnson, president emeritus Dr. Edgar L. Harden, and members of the Board of Control.

Fred St. Arnaud, Negaunee, district court clerk, said the complainants in the suit, which comes under a civil rights bill, 28USC 1343, and the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 forbidding state officials from interfering with the exercise of constitutional rights by individuals, are McClellan, 137 other NMU instructors and the Student Government Association.

The suit is for damages. McClellan spokesmen said the suit asks "not less than \$100,000" for McClellan, "not less than \$500,000 for faculty members" and "not less than \$500,000 for the Student Government Association."

Regarding the Student Government Association's participation in the law suit, Donald L. Keskey, SGA President, has said that he was advised by McClellan's lawyers that the court would look upon this action as being perfectly proper.

McClellan was charged with interfering with university policies and practices, which charges he denied.

McClellan's suit is based on the denial of constitutional rights and academic freedom at Northern.

Representing McClellan for the American Civil Liberties Union are attorneys Erwin Elimann and Roland O'Hare, both of Detroit. Marvin L. Heitman, Marquette attorney, is also named as legal aid.

Named as defendants in the suit are Harden, individually as past president of the university, Johnson, individually as interim president, and the eight members of the Board of Control individually as members of the board.

Board of Control members are John P. McGoff, Williamston, board chairman, and Walter G. Drevdahl, Sault Ste. Marie; John L. Farley, Menominee; Mrs. Thelma Flodin, Iron Mountain; Edwin O. George, Bloomfield Hills; Joseph Gross, Detroit; Glen B. Moreau, Escanaba; and Dr. Fred C. Sabin, Marquette.

The McClellan case is also being investigated by the American Association of University Professors on request of the NMU chapter.