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NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY CHAPTER OF THE AAUP

Statement on the McClellan Case and Request for Funds

Suit was formally filed on March 22 by Dr. McClellan, 136 members of the University faculty, and the Student Senate, against Dr. Harden, Mr. Johnson, and the members of the Board of Control as individuals. It asks for a preliminary court order reinstating Dr. McClellan without loss of financial benefits, pending a hearing of the case on its merits, which it is hoped by the complainants will result in a permanent court order.

A delay has been caused by the action of Judge Kent in disqualifying himself because of unspecified "pressure" and his feeling that he could not give an impartial verdict. Judge Thomas Thornton has been appointed in his place, and the case will now proceed; but how rapidly, is not yet known.

In the next few weeks Dr. McClellan has to make a crucial decision. He has turned down previous offers of jobs, but he cannot continue to do so unless he is assured of financial support for at least the coming year. On the other hand, if he accepts a position and is therefore not available for reinstatement, the case becomes moot and in effect collapses.

A number of faculty members have therefore proposed that the University community guarantee Dr. McClellan's salary for a minimum of one year, during which he will make a substantial contribution to the intellectual life of the community. The sum in question is \$8,000 to \$10,000. If one hundred persons would pledge ten dollars a month for ten months, beginning in September, the total would be \$10,000. A number of faculty have already indicated their willingness to do so. Smaller pledges would of course be accepted from persons unable to make this commitment. Aid will also be sought from the student body and from interested townspeople.

Dr. McClellan has said that he will stay in Marquette and keep himself available for reinstatement if a minimum of \$8,000 is pledged.

What is asked for now is not money but pledges. If the suit is resolved in favor of the complainants before the money is needed, the pledges need not be paid; if later, contributions will be refunded.

The Northern Michigan University Chapter of the AAUP is the sponsoring agency. Members of the faculty will be solicited personally by representatives of the chapter.

A legal determination of the issue is desirable from every point of view--from the point of view of those who have devoted so much of their time, energy, and intellectual and moral resources to the case; from the standpoint of those faculty members who are still in the process of deciding whether Northern has a future

that they will wish to share; from the standpoint of those who are committed to staying and recognize that a court settlement--barring a change of position by the Board of Control--will be more helpful than any other settlement in removing the bitterness and distrust that now divide the University community; from the standpoint of the Board of Control, which will then have its authority and responsibility more clearly defined; and from the standpoint of all those who are concerned with strengthening the concept of academic freedom and the professional integrity of college and university teachers.