

# Legislators Threaten Possible Closing Of University Here In Wake Of Demonstrations

(Photos on Page 10)

Possible closing of Northern Michigan University was threatened Wednesday afternoon by members of the Legislature's appropriations committees, unless normal class schedules are resumed.

In a telegram to Interim President Ogdén B. Johnson, Chairman Frank D. Beadle (R-28th District) of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Arnell Engstrom (R-104th District), chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said they were "gravely concerned with the current situation at Northern Michigan University."

## Text Of Telegram

"When money was appropriated to the university by the Legislature, the intention was that it would be used to educate students. It now appears that some teachers are not teaching, that there is property destruction and that the standing of the university is being greatly demeaned," the telegram stated.

"In fairness to the taxpayers of Michigan, we consider it of utmost importance that the educational program be resumed immediately.

"We recognize the governing board as the established authority to see that the programs are carried out. The alternative is that the university be closed until the program can be resumed," it concluded.

## Student Protests Continue

Meanwhile, enthusiastic but orderly student protests contin-

ued Wednesday on the campus over terminating of the contract of Dr. Robert McClellan, assistant history professor.

About 300 students and members of the faculty joined in a "McClellan Day" parade through downtown Marquette Wednesday afternoon, and by the time the marchers returned to the campus, their ranks had swelled to about 1,000, according to city police.

A "burn-in" of university catalogs, pamphlets, data processing cards, an effigy of the administration and memoranda took place at 3 p.m. on the lawn in front of University Center, attended by approximately 350 students.

## Freedom Rally Dance

Beginning at 8 p.m., a Freedom Rally Dance was held in C. B. Hedcock Fieldhouse, where peak attendance was reported to be about 2,000. The event ended without incident at midnight.

However, students were offered a chance — at 25 cents a try — to smash an old auto parked near the fieldhouse by striking it with a sledge hammer. On one side was painted "Story Oldsmobile." (Dr. Edgar L. Harden, president emeritus of NMU who notified McClellan of his terminated contract, now heads the Story firm in Lansing.)

Johnson said this morning that "the situation at Northern is near normal, and that reports of vandalism and breakdown of

campus schedules have been grossly exaggerated."

## Attendance Report

"The plain fact is that a hard core of about 100 students and 15 or 20 faculty members are working overtime to keep alive an issue that the great majority of students and faculty members are willing to permit to be settled through established procedures set forth by the state constitution and the code set down by the NMU board of control," Johnson said.

The university administrative council reported today that attendance is about 15 per cent below normal. Under normal conditions, there is a 10 per cent absenteeism.

"It is true that on Halloween night there were some windows broken and the interior of a state car burned. These were not the successive acts of a mob, but each was isolated from the other," Johnson explained.

## 'Highly Distorted Releases'

"The administration has been embarrassed by this hard core who have sent out highly distorted press releases, which have, regrettably, been accepted at face value," he added.

Vandalism reports stemmed from incidents Tuesday night when three large plate glass windows were smashed in the new West Science Building, and two large windows in the president's residence on W. Kaye Ave. were broken. Damage was estimated at \$450.

Also, a fire was started in a state-owned car parked near the campus security office. Inflammable liquid apparently was squirted on the left front seat and set afire. The blaze burned itself out. However, the entire inside of the auto was damaged to the extent of \$300.

Several windows in married student housing quarters were reportedly broken by B-B pellets.

# National Merit Qualifying Tests Slated Here Feb. 24

Marquette County high school students who expect to complete their secondary school

competition is to take the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQT).