

# Serious Faults In Proposed Constitution

After an effort of the magnitude of the one which the Student Government Evaluation Committee has just completed and is about to present as a referendum to the student body, it immediately becomes quite unpopular to remain critical of the result.

However, the final presentation by the committee offers no alternative. Northern's students should not delude themselves for a single moment that the proposed constitution can provide the foundation necessary to establish student government at NMU as a viable, functioning force.

There are three very critical short-comings of the document which leave considerable question as to how much of an improvement over the present situation this new constitution would be. Two of these areas deal with the problem of disenfranchisement. Every incoming freshman is denied the opportunity to vote at a growing University where the freshmen compose upwards to 35 per cent of the student body. It also completely fails to deal with the potential problem of representing the graduate student.

The third short-coming is the most critical and in fact, is what will deny the new governing structure the ability to be an effective legislative body.

This is the document's failure to effectively integrate the governing function. The committee fails to see the necessity of assuming the responsibility for establishing Residence Hall government as an equitable, representative, integrated arm of the student governing structure.

The explanation is offered that this is how we intend it to work but it will take care of itself after the new constitution is put into affect. This attitude represents the identical "hope and a prayer" philosophy that plagues student government right now.

It appears very plain that the residence hall governing structure, which is so comfortably entrenched within the confines of the Housing Office, is simply too hot an issue to handle. How can one arm of student government, fairly and representatively elected (ASNMU) "work things out" at a later date with a group which makes a

laughing matter out of representative government?

The attitude expressed this week by one house president at a meeting regarding University policy in regard to the residence hall typifies the frame of mind of residence hall government at NMU. The individual asked to be excused from the meeting because he did not think it was his prerogative to disagree with or seek to legislatively change University policy in this area, which is what the meeting was trying to accomplish.

The proposed document on Tuesday's ballot does effectively organize the various service functions of student government and also does a magnificent job in developing an equitable judicial structure. The present system is completely lacking in both of these areas.

Now comes the difficult question. Do we approve the proposed document and satisfy our present great need for an effective judiciary and efficient use of student services, or do we defeat the proposal because of the disenfranchisement and failure to integrate the governing function?

## Editorial

Without functioning representative residence hall government, student government at NMU will remain the top-heavy structure that it is right now. Integration of residence hall government could do a lot toward establishing badly needed channels for student involvement.

Neither alternative is very desirable. The best solution would be a postponement of the vote on the constitution in the hope that the committee would take the opportunity to include the alteration in their document.

It would be unfortunate after eight months of effort to end up with a constitution which only goes halfway toward establishing a sound structure for student government at Northern. The Editors



Upwards of 400 students gathered in front of the University Center in protest of the Federal Government's announcement of the closing down of the Job Corps Center.

## Committee Answers; Vote Tuesday On Constitution

With the all-university referendum on the proposed student body constitution coming up next Tuesday, the Student Government Association's Self-Evaluation Committee (drafters of the document) replied this week to the two major criticisms made of the proposed constitution.

Replying first to the criticism that the 2,000 to 2,500 entering fall freshmen will be disenfranchised by the constitution, Martin Holmes, speaking for the Committee, stated that, when the constitution was set up the Committee had to make a choice of alternatives—whether the elections are to be held in the fall or in the spring.

"The simple fact is that spring elections are far superior to the alternative of fall elections," Holmes said. He continued by saying that the "amount of disenfranchisement of freshmen does not outweigh the advantages of a spring election."

"With fall election, it takes anywhere from one month to six weeks to fill the positions on the govern-

ment," Holmes said. "By the time the student government is in a position to carry on its function half of the first semester has passed, and vacation periods destroy any momentum."

Spring elections, on the other hand, "have the advantage that they give every student—including freshmen—the opportunity to view first hand the shortcomings of the existing government" and "have an increased opportunity to watch perspective candidates listen to their ideas and decide whom they want to respond to."

In addition, Holmes stated, freshmen will not "really be disenfranchised" as there will be "literally hundreds of positions open for them which will involve a high degree of decision making."

The second major criticism of the proposed constitution is that it has failed to bring all the individual student government together as its major purpose was to have been. Holmes only response to the criticism was that the Committee feels it has achieved its goal and that there is no basis for the criticism.

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

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Actually the present clumsy SGA has a greater representative potential than the ten member ASNMU does. The Editors

### Group Demonstrates

## Dr. Jamrich Blasts OEO In Job Corps Controversy

Northern Michigan University President John X. Jamrich said Wednesday that he has received another in a series of threatening telephone calls Tuesday night, on the heels of a decision by the federal government to close down the Job Corps center here.

Jamrich said that the calls began last December, immediately following a sit-in by black students which resulted in the cancellation of a basketball game.

The calls, which reportedly threatened the safety of the President and his family, were believed to be related to the sit-in and the Job Corps.

Jamrich said one anonymous caller said that he'd "better do it right for the black students, or else."

Another caller, Jamrich said, called him a "nigger lover."

But the president added that he did not intend to shy away from personal contact with students.

Jamrich made these statements Wednesday afternoon, as he was meeting with persons backing the retention of the Women's Job Corps center on Northern's campus and representatives of the Corps itself.

The Job Corps center, set up at Northern in 1966, has been slated for closing in a Nixon administration economy move.

The NMU center has been the

object of considerable controversy on campus, and whether or not it would remain here for another year was to have been decided at the upcoming meeting of the University Board of Control.

At the time Jamrich and the group were meeting, some 350 to 400 persons gathered outside the University Center in a "Save the Job Corps" rally.

The rally was staged by the Friends of the Black Students' Association (FOBSA), a group of students and faculty which has been supporting retention of the Job Corps center since last fall.

Ruben Franco, chairman of FOBSA, read a list of demands drawn up by that organization and presented to President Jamrich. Included in the list were demands that Jamrich ask President Richard Nixon to keep the Job Corps at Northern; that Jamrich encourage the Board of Control to make the same request; and that Jamrich himself make a public statement of support for the center.

Melvin Payne, president of the Black Students' Association; Father Glenn Weber, a member of the campus ministry; and several Northern instructors and students also spoke and made similar demands.

Dean Carl, chairman of the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) spoke to the group, expressing his opposition to the

Corps.

He carried signs saying "Dick did the trick" and "Sock it to 'em, President Jamrich."

A confederate flag was waved by several white students from a window in Spooner Residence Hall as several Job Corps enrollees talked about the program.

When confronted with both the demands of the rallyers and Job Corps representatives at the Wednesday meeting, President Jamrich said he wanted to "make it clear and explicit" that he "will not be intimidated, threatened, or forced into a decision... especially in this particular case at this point in time in view of several compelling facts."

"As of this date," Jamrich said, "the University (which is the contractor for the Job Corps program) has not received any information regarding the basis and rationale for the decision to discontinue this center."

"And, until we have that rationale, as well as some indication that there is a possibility for changing the decision, the Board and I do not have a decision to make...."

Jamrich said that he has received evidence over the past few months that Office of Economic Opportunity officials in Washington have been "less than enthusiastic" about the Marquette center.

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