

Furor Over Job Corps At NMU Premature: Jamrich

The furor over the retention of the Women's Job Corps Center at Northern Michigan University is premature, NMU President John X. Jamrich said today.

"The decision to renew or cancel the Job Corps contract in June with the Office of Economic Opportunity will be made by Northern's Board of Control in several months on the basis of my recommendation," Dr. Jamrich said.

In his statement, which comes on the heels of a recommendation from NMU's Faculty Senate that the Job Corps Center be removed from campus, Jamrich pointed out that he has asked other groups for similar recommendations.

No Racial Overtones

"I vigorously take issue with any implications that the Faculty Senate recommendation or the actions of the administration during the past several months regarding black students or the Job Corps at NMU have racial overtones," Jamrich said.

"Such an accusation is not in the best interests of the university or the Job Corps program. Our judgement and decision will be made on as factual and objective a basis as we can have."

The NMU president noted that the Faculty Senate recommendation was made several weeks ago (Nov. 26 to be exact), and therefore is not "in any way related to or connected with the sit-in" last Monday night by

members of the Black Student Union.

Cultural Issue

"It should be emphasized that the Senate sees the social problem described in its recommendation to be due to the cultural background of the Job Corps enrollees and their guests, not to their race or color," Jamrich stated.

Early in November, Jamrich said, he requested evaluation and recommendations from several campus groups regarding the continuation of the Job Corps on the NMU campus. "At that time, I asked the Faculty Senate to provide me with one such evaluation."

'One Of Several'

Conclusions and recommendations of the Faculty Senate were contained in its minutes of Nov. 26.

Jamrich said it "is important to point out" that theirs "is just one of several recommendations and that their evaluation concerned itself with the 'effect of the Job Corps program on the faculty and regular students at the University.'"

He pointed out that the Senate emphasized that "it is not inclined to attempt to evaluate the success of the local Job Corps program, to evaluate the benefits of the program gained from being located on campus, or to criticize the basic philosophy of the Job Corps."

The university has not made a final decision regarding the

continuation of the Job Corps program, Jamrich pointed out, stating:

Basis For Recommendation

"In order that we may have adequate time to make such a decision regarding the 1969-70 academic year, I requested several campus groups to provide me with their evaluations and recommendations. On the basis of these, I shall bring a recommendation to the NMU Board of Control within the next month or two.

Jamrich said the Job Corps program much be evaluated on the basis of at least "four major factors":

1. The philosophy of the program with which the university was and is in accord.

2. The accomplishments of the program here at NMU in terms of the number of graduates; length of stay in the program, the success of placement of the graduates, the value of the on-campus location of the program to the participants.

3. The use made of the program by the academic community in research, teacher internships, etc.

4. The effect of the Job Corps on the general environment including the social life, admissions, use of facilities, health services, financial contributions, etc.

Called successful

According to Dr. Burt Jones, director of the job corps center, the data regarding the program indicate "that we have been successful with the participants,

even though data from the Washington office appears to indicate the NMU Job Corps is lower on performance in the areas of placement and length of stay than some centers," Jamrich said.

"It is my feeling that the community advisory council for the Job Corps has seen this as a valuable community experience; said Jamrich. Also, at the beginning of this year, I appointed a faculty research advisory committee to stimulate the research involvement of the staff with the total Job Corps program.

About 300 girls, half of whom are Negroes, are enrolled in the NMU Job Corps Center which is in its third year of operation.

India is responsible for Sukim's defense, foreign affairs and communications.



Congressman Digs Steps Into Job Corps Controversy At NMU

DETROIT (AP) — Rep. Charles C. Diggs Jr., D-Mich., has stepped into the controversy that threatens eviction of a nearly all-Negro Women's Job Corps Center from the Northern Michigan University campus at Marquette.

Diggs, one of the state's two Negro congressmen, announced Sunday he has asked separate meetings Tuesday with those involved in the racial squabble, which erupted last week when 100 students forced postponement of a basketball game by sitting down on the court and refusing to move.

Diggs said he had asked conferences with Dr. John X. Jamrich, NMU president; the director of the Job Corps Center; the NMU Faculty Senate; Job Corps trainees and a representative group of Negro students. Human Rights Commission.

He also wired the commander of K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base outside Marquette, requesting a meeting with Negro servicemen, whose campus visits to meet Job Corps trainees are a part of the controversy.

The Black Students Association said it took over the basketball court in support of demands upon Jamrich for establishment of a human rights commission to act on cases of reported racial discrimination on the campus, among other things.

They also asked employment of more Negro students in university jobs and a review of recent incidents involving security police and Negro students. Has 310 Enrollees

mands in a conference with Negro campus leaders the next day.

The Faculty Senate recommended to Jamrich Friday that the Job Corps Center be removed from the campus or if this were not feasible immediately that NMU not seek renewal of the Job Corps contract.

The Job Corps Center has 310 enrollees, 80 per cent of them Negro, and is in its third year on the NMU campus under a \$1.6 million contract with the Office of Economic Opportunity.

'Explosive Elements'

NMU has a predominantly white student body of 7,100.

"I am entering this situation," Diggs said in a statement, "because it appears to be very serious and has highly disturbing racial overtones.

"The fact that 80 per cent of the 310 Job Corps enrollees at NMU are black and that black students apparently differ with the Senate on motives for the eviction are explosive elements in the current climate of student revolt."

'Cultural Differences'

In recommending removal of the center, the Faculty Senate said it had been informed that on numerous occasions guests of Job Corps enrollees had "abused and threatened and sometimes even physically attacked regular students and employees of the university."

The senate also said "cultural differences" exist between Job Corps members and their guests and NMU students and that Job Corps involvement in

university activities is "minimal."

"I would hate to see this program lost from the state and from the campus environment, which should be expected to provide extra dimensions, not only for trainees, but for both black and white students," Diggs said.

He said he proposed the conferences to seek solution through negotiations.

The Mining Journal



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Published by The Panax Corporation, daily except Sunday and legal holidays at Marquette, Michigan and especially devoted to Upper Peninsula interests. Second class postage paid at Marquette, Michigan.

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