

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 10, 1970

Dear Dr. Kafer:

In our conversation this morning you indicated that in the hearings regarding the sit-in a question had arisen as to whether the students had been granted permission to occupy the Dean of Students Office on December 17. The purpose of this note is to attempt to clarify the circumstances and the facts in the case as I remember them.

First of all, following our breakfast meeting on December 17, you, Dr. Niemi and I agreed that for the time being no action would be taken to remove the students who were then occupying the office. This was based on the observation at that moment in time that the students were very orderly, and my personal concern that resort to force might lead to violence.

During the day, I met with you and Dr. Niemi, and it was decided that you would ask them to leave, which you did, about noon, as I understand it. During the day I also met with the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate and several other faculty members. Included in this group were Dr. Hilton, Dr. Baker, Dr. Meneghel, Mr. Watanen, and Dr. McClellan, among others. We discussed at considerable length the alternatives open to us. The general consensus and agreement of that group was that if we convened the Student-Faculty Judiciary that evening to hear the appeal in the case promptly, there no longer remained any reason for the students to continue to occupy the Dean of Students Office, and they should leave. It was further agreed by this group that should the students remain in the office after the Student-Faculty Judiciary convened, we should seek an injunction to remove them. I agreed with the recommendation of the faculty and students with whom I talked that we should pursue the injunction route, rather than call the police immediately.

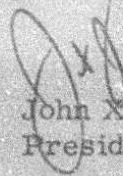
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Finally, it is also my understanding that during the evening hours Dr. Niemi did request the students to leave, and they refused. It was also my understanding that following the meeting with the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, several members of that group were to have gone over to indicate to the black students that we were pursuing the injunction route, and that it would be advisable for them to leave the facilities at once and avoid a direct confrontation with the civil authorities. (See attached minutes of Academic Senate Executive Committee)

These, to the best of my ability, are my recollections of the situation on December 17. At no time during the afternoon or evening hours did I give permission for the black students to continue to occupy the facilities of the Dean of Students Office. My reluctance to seek the intervention of outside force to terminate the sit-in clearly was not a grant of permission that it continue.

Sincerely yours,



John X. Jamrich
President

JXJ:MLA

Enc.

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