

Meeting with Black Students, Academic Senate, Administrative Staff, and Others in the Pioneer Room, May 13, 1970 at 10:00 A. M.

. . . telephone call to me indicated that . . .

There were black students calling me asking me what I knew, if I knew anything about the Augusta, Georgia murders. And I said yes, I had heard about them. The question was what I intend to do about it, or what my reaction was to it, and I was frank to say that I had not given the matter any thought. Then there were a few other comments and that ended the telephone conversation.

At approximately 2:30 and thereafter several black students began to gather in front of my home, and I would say between 2:30 and 3:00 (and I didn't keep a diary but approximately at that hour) between 30 and 40 (I would estimate, perhaps more or less) black students were gathered in the front of my home. I, as the students who were there would attest, walked outdoors, and we talked with several of them. The general indication initially was that I should cancel classes for the rest of the year in observance of the six black people killed in Augusta, Georgia.

There were other conversations along the line, but essentially this seemed to be the crux of the request, namely, the cancellation of classes in some shape or form in observance of the events in Augusta. And that, to carry it a little further, this had been done for students who requested the same type of holiday last Wednesday night, and therefore it seemed reasonable to the students there last night that this be done again.

My response to that was that this was quite a substantial request as the other one had been, and that anything to do with holding classes, not holding classes, or modifying what would be done during class time is a matter up to the faculty. And that this question, whatever the specifics of it might be, would be discussed in a meeting with the Academic Senate, the ASNMU, the administrative staff, and others who were invited to the meeting the other morning.

We did have the assistance, the fortunate presence in the city of the Civil Rights Commission staff (five members of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission), and I took the liberty to disturb them at 3:30 this morning, and three of the members of that staff did come to my home and were of substantial assistance in working on our problem with us. The students, the last of the students left the front of the house at about six o'clock this morning. The arrangements or commitments to this meeting had been made during the course of some discussions which took place in the house as well as outside of the house.

As I say, the people present here represent presumably most or all of the Academic Senate, a substantial group of the ASNMU Governing Board, the administrative staff of Vice Presidents and Deans, members of the Campus Ministry, black students representing the Black Students Association, and I gather from general appearance there are other students interested, including several from the Human Rights Commission here at Northern Michigan University. If I missed anybody in enumeration, forgive me. I didn't intend to offend you, but that seems to be my recollection of who was to be present here by invitation.

Let me repeat then, what I consider the purpose of this meeting or at least this as the initial meeting with purposes of (a) identifying the specific request, (b) clarifying the rationale and justification for that request, and (c) attempting to look at the alternative ways of providing and meeting the objectives presented in that request. It seems to me that the best place to begin is essentially with the request, its purpose, rationale, and then we can turn to how we achieve this. Pat Williams, are you going to be the first to speak on the matter?

Mr. Williams:

"No, No I'm not."

Mr. Gaines:

"I am. As far as Northern is concerned and Georgia, I'm all for it. I feel that something should be done since there was a holiday called for by the students in the Kent State murders, and since this was equally intended to be a nonviolent, peaceful demonstration, and once again six blacks did get killed, we felt that we were entitled to a day of mourning, such as the Kent State, such as we observed last Friday."

Now, as far as calling off classes for the rest of the year, that is doing what the potential danger of the situation right here. This school probably has more guns than any school in the country. More unchecked guns. And that is the reason we ask for you to suspend classes for the rest of the year."

Dr. Jarrich:

"I think before we go on, one item I did forget in bringing us up to date, and I think there has been some concern expressed to me by students coming in this room. The question being what is the extent of the damage on our own campus and the type of damage, and what concerns do we need to have as to what we're about and what is about us?"

"Briefly, the extent of the damages -- I have it reported to me -- includes two windows in Gries Hall, a couple of windows in the Instructional Facility, a couple of windows in the Fine Arts Building; in the little theater of Olson library basement -- in the little classroom -- a Vernor ginger ale bottle thrown through the window had gasoline in it and a cloth, slight burning, but there was no ignition of major source.

In the Purchasing Office, we had a window broken and gasoline or high combustible material was found on the floor and had been ignited. It is difficult to determine how the material got on the floor. A one-quart bottle with some rags and gas in it in the Dean's Office (Dean of Students Record Office), a double center window was broken, and a bottle on top of the file cabinet opposite the window. In Dean Reese's office I'm told there is a double center window, and there was a quart bottle with gasoline and rags in it, and a gin bottle with gasoline and a rag in it in one office which isn't clearly identified in the report.

But I thought you should know that this is the report of existing damage, and that I have this morning fulfilled at least part of my obligation, and I have taken steps to insure adequate protection of property and life on this campus because whatever our decision may be, one thing I must pledge to you is that I am going to insist on the continuation of the operation of this University. I'm going to insist on adequate protection of property and life. That concludes my statement on that. Now I think we should go back to follow up Mike Gaines' presentation of essentially the request and continue with the discussion."

#### Beginning of the second tape

Dr. Jamrich:

"I don't see any reason why . . . immediately we take action on the matter of the guns. And I am going to write the statement, but essentially it will be that I, as President, am ordering immediate action today and the days following, whatever it takes, a day, an hour, or half a day, room by room elimination of guns in the possession of students in the residence hall rooms and to have them stored either at their homes (that is, they take them home over the weekend) or in a locked place which we will provide.

"Since it is not hunting season, there appears to be no emergency in the sense that I want to get up at four o'clock in the morning to go hunting. We would take all these guns which are stored in the designated places in the residence halls and insist that all guns either be taken home immediately or stored in this permanent place from which the student would receive, pick up his gun at the end of the semester when he is checking out.

We have only the legal mechanics to worry about; we happen to have two members of the University law firm present, and these mechanics will be hammered out, and I would ask your counsel on this. We could expand the implementation committee on this to five, ten, or sixteen, or we could simply say Dean Kafer and the attorneys execute the proper procedure to implement this particular declaration, namely, that all guns be moved off campus."

Question asked (could not hear)

Dr. Jamrich:

"Yes, I will. Do we leave that with or without a hearing?"

Unknown voice:

"Same process . . ."

Dr. Jamrich:

"What is our present provision?"

Discussion which could not be heard.

Dr. Jamrich:

"Possible suspension. Norm, did you have something to contribute on that question? Dr. Niemi?"

Dr. Niemi:

Could not hear what he said.

Dr. Jamrich:

"Now, let's not worry about the relaxation of normal search and procedure policies. I'm going to ask our attorneys to prepare the proper steps which will be within legal bounds, and this may simply (I'm not going to say it, Mr. Jones), but it could be most anything. We're not going to monkey with relaxation. We're going to approach the problem head-on because of the guns, and we're going to get rid of them."

Dr. Jamrich:

"We have the attorneys at hand, and there is a way of doing it. Mr. Van?"

Mr. Van Tassel:

Could not hear what he said.

Dr. Jamrich:

"I'm going to have to avoid the notion of ad hoc committee legislation which we would like to do, I know, in our intense interest in this thing. The point we're focusing on are the guns, and I will make out the order, and I'm asking Kafer, Mr. O'Donnell, Pat Williams, and Mr. Jones, our attorney, to get together and work out the procedure. I think Mr. Jones and Mr. Robinson, our attorneys who are present, can hammer out the procedure, and the presence of the two students would be helpful in terms of communication as to what's happening, and Dean Kafer in terms of the execution of the order. Yes?"

Unknown voice:

"One thing I would like to say. There has been a lot of talk about taking guns away from students and quite going about it. What legality do you have for it? I think another thing that should be considered. I live here for one thing, here in Marquette, I go to school here. Another thing that should be considered is the fact that this campus is run by this administration. If you could make a law or any type of ordinances that states students cannot have guns on campus or in their rooms, you can also make a further ruling that no person, no matter who he is or anyone, can come on this campus with firearms.

There are a lot of people from town that walk around this campus carrying guns. I've seen them. I know. I know some of them personally. There are a lot of people who come on this campus with guns. Some type of an ordinance can be put up to prevent any person, no matter who he is or what his reason for being here should carry firearms on this campus. The minute you start taking guns away from students, you're going to get a lot of gripes from a lot of students, and I know I have been talking to them for two weeks. They're going to say, "Why can't I have a gun? Everybody else walks around here with one." And that's a fact,

and I think most of the people here realize that. When you start talking about getting gun issues, then get every possible gun that's brought on this campus off of here and keep them off of here."

Dr. Jamrich:

"This will be possible."