

Rights Unit Hits College Race Stand

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MARQUETTE—The chairman of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission (CRC) says a wide "credibility gap" exists between the Northern Michigan University administration and some students on reports of racial unrest.

CRC Chairman Julian A. Cook Jr. and two other commission officials met on campus Wednesday with NMU President John X. Jamrich, Marquette Mayor Lloyd Price and Jack Rombouts, NMU Human Relation Commission chairman, to urge adoption of several CRC recommendations designed to promote racial peace.

COOK, DISTURBED by reports of a large number of guns on campus, responded to fears by the campus' 140 black students that the white gun owners were a threat to their lives. He asked Jamrich and Price too:

- Publicly reaffirm the ban of guns on campus, an action taken two weeks ago by Jamrich.

- Provide a "feeling of security" for the black students equivalent to the security felt by the 7,000 white students.

- Establish a rumor-control center in the university's public-information office.

- Provide more active university administration and city support for the campus Human Relations Commission.

- Publicly denounce the "nigger hunting license" flyers being distributed by extremists on campus.

"THE UNIVERSITY has not had an emergency," Jamrich said Wednesday. "There is not a tense atmosphere. We are conducting our business as usual."

"I just finished talking with a large group of students," Cook said, "and they feel just the opposite, that this is a campus filled with tension."

A team of CRC investigators, under the supervision of Harry Wright, CRC director of special projects, has been interviewing students and faculty members the last month on formal complaints of racism filed by NMU's Black Students Association.

An executive session of the CRC at 10 a.m. Tuesday in CRC headquarters, Cadillac Square Building, Detroit, will feature Wright's NMU findings.

Mayor Price declined to comment on his reaction to Wednesday's meeting. Jamrich said the meeting "clarified misunderstandings and misinformation" about the NMU situation.