

Students Rightly Miffed At Firings

Students at Schoolcraft College are a bit miffed, and rightly so, over an action of the administration in dismissing six probationary teachers last week.

Their most bitter complaints are that the teachers were fired without specified reasons, without an evaluation of their abilities and without a recommendation from the head of the department.

We sympathize with the students in their feelings about the matter, but somehow feel this is something that should be decided by the Faculty Forum, the official bargaining group for the faculty.

IT WAS THE FACULTY Forum that negotiated with the administration team for the better part of eight months before finally accepting a contract just a few days before the opening of the college for the fall term in late August.

Money was a big item in the negotiations, but we can't believe that any negotiation team would agree to a contract that isn't inclusive—one that has the answers for most any problem that could possibly come up.

We have been informed that new teachers are placed on a probation period when hired by the Schoolcraft administration. This could extend for as long as two years, with a provision for a third year if deemed necessary by the administration; it could be as short as one year, depending on the evaluation of the teacher's ability, and could be terminated before the end of the first year with 90 days written notice or before the end of the second year with a 30-day notice.

If the teacher successfully passes the probationary period, then he or she receives a tenure contract.

The announcement of the dismissals was made to the Board of Trustees by College President Dr. Eric Bradner last week. He informed the trustees that he was sorry to announce that contracts

It Was Tough To Accentuate Positive

"Accentuate the Positive" is the refrain of the song.

It's also a pretty good summing up of the President's State of the Union message last week.

The first part of the speech was devoted to foreign affairs and LBJ restated the administration policy on Vietnam.

His first words were: "Since I reported to you last January, three elections have been held in Vietnam." No word about the increasing intensity of the war or even recognizing the existence of the growing protest movement in the country.

LBJ cited the tariff reduction brought about by the Kennedy Round of talks.

The President noted that 1967 was the first time the "hot line" between Moscow and Washington had been used. He announced that he would send to the Senate a treaty providing for the protection of astronauts between the USA and the Soviet Union.

IT WAS ONLY after these glowing reports that the President turned to his domestic programs.

The political pundits are fond of recalling LBJ's "New Frontier" philosophy. The President afforded the columnists ample opportunity in his approach to the domestic issues.

He called for the creation of job opportunity, for additional training and education, health aid for

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From the Publisher's Desk—OBSERVATION POINT

By Philip H. Power

The President delivered his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress exactly one week ago tonight.

It's an impressive show, there in the great chamber of the House of Representatives. The flags draped behind the President. The Vice President and Speaker of the House sitting grimly behind on the dais, as though they were watching over his executive works, as befits their stature as presiding officers of the legislative assemblies of the people.

The only State of the Union address I ever saw live was in 1965, while I was working for Congressman Todd in Washington. Somehow, I got hold of one of the tickets for the House galleries that are distributed to the various congressional offices, and I trotted over to the capitol just before 8 p.m. to see the show.

IT WAS PRETTY dark by then, and I paused near the east entrance to look down over Washington, covered then by brilliant lights. At the very top of the immense Capitol dome, a single lamp burned, signifying that a night session of Congress was planned.

Then there was a dark swish, and a long limousine swept by me with men festooned all over the car and lots of policemen ahead and behind. It was the President and his security escort. He had come quietly and early, perhaps to go down to the office of the Speaker, see his old congressional friends, maybe to

VOTES? ... POSSIBLE

Teen Center Could Be Pandora Box

One wonders if the Plymouth City Commission hasn't opened a Pandora's Box by its recent action granting the Plymouth Jaycees a temporary occupancy permit of one year for operation of a Teen Center on a non-conforming basis.

We have no quarrel with the Jaycees about their plans for the Center since there appears to be a need for such a program.

However, the building and site selected does not conform with the zoning ordinance. In the first place, there is a decided lack of parking, a matter which various commissioners have waved in the faces of property owners in the downtown business section. In the second place, the building was not rezoned and no request was made for rezoning.

And that brings up the question: Just what action will the Commission take when builders, developers and real estate agents appear before that august body and make similar requests?

More to the point, will the Commission find itself faced with a request for a renewal of the temporary permit at the end of the year?

—R. T. Thompson

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This Is The Week That

... By Don Hoenshell

Gov. Romney blew a secret report on race violence in his state of the state message and even as little as he said is enough to send suburbanites up the wall.

Briefly, they're predicting exquisite mayhem in Detroit next summer.

The report said the trouble will spread this time toward the fringes, out where people have run to get away from the city and its troubles.

First, the light stuff.

STATE SENATOR George Kuhn, the conservative former mayor of Berkley, learned of the report and suggested an executive session of the Senate to hear it from Col. Frederick E. Davids of the State Police.

There hasn't been an executive session of the Senate in years. They used to vote on executive appointments that way but reporters found out how they went by a simple expedient.

They would lie on their face in the dust in a balcony over the lieutenant governor's rostrum and record the debate and the votes. Abandonment of executive sessions only wiped out a delicious item on the expense list. Dry cleaning in the line of duty, \$107.48.

Now Lansing reporters buy suits off the rack but it's more comfortable.

Romney heard about the same report and called Davids in the day before he made his state of the state address. When the meeting broke up, the governor swore everybody to secrecy — except himself.

Next day, he picked up an insert for his speech and blew the report. All reporters had to do was write notes they could read.

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moment the hair on the back of my neck stood up straight.

For here was the entire nation, government and people, coming together in one room on one evening, to consider the future of the state of the union and to hear the agenda for the coming year.

It was very moving.

THIS YEAR'S SPEECH didn't strike me so much, probably because I wasn't there to see all the pageantry that gives the State of the Union Address such emotional power.

It was, outstandingly, a political speech. After all, it's an election year, and the mood of the country is dubious. The President sensed it, and you could feel him looking over the public opinion polls as he read off his speech.

"Yes, something for everyone," you could hear the Presidential aides saying as they worked through the endless drafts. Let's not upset the Congress. It's rambo enough already," you could hear the political liaison men counselling.

It was a hold-the-line State of the Union Address.

THE BIGGEST THING, of course, was the section on crime. The President knows full well that a recent survey showed that one third of Americans feels unsafe when they walk out in their neighborhoods at night. That's darn near a majority of the votes.

So the President tried to make the crime issue his own. He pushed the Safe Streets Bill (rejected last year, and a pretty good bill). He documented his concern by going into unusual detail about the 100 extra FBI agents and 100 added Assistant United States Attorneys to help enforce the laws. (In a State of the Union speech, such detail is tantamount to talking specifically about adding 100 extra janitors to the staff at the Capitol.)

He talked about drug control and LSD. He sounded tough.

And he got the biggest hand of the evening.

It looks as though Congress will outdo itself this year in cracking down on crime. It may not do much about stopping the causes of crime, but by George, they're going to deal with the violators.

THE PRESIDENT said sensible things about dealing with the causes of crime.

He wants \$2.1 billion for an expanded program for training and hiring over one-half million hard-core jobless. He wants \$1 billion for the Model Cities program, six million units of low cost housing in the next 10 years.

These things will help stop crime. The Congress knows this. But they won't work right away, and Congressmen need to get the votes this year.

Long run thinking is usually a luxury in an election year. I doubt that the President will get what he wants.

ON VIET NAM, the President didn't say much. He couldn't, with possible peace negotiations being explored even as he was talking. He wants to get the war over, but without chickening out.

He said the country was in a crisis of confidence, anxious and divided. He was right.

He talked about the numbers of kids going to college, and about the fact that hundreds of thousands of mothers and fathers who never completed grammar school would see their children graduate from college.

I had the sense that he was speaking to the older generation, a generation which he senses and with which he can identify. He didn't seem to say much to people under 35.

Perhaps that's why his speech sounded so uncertain. He identified the problems, but the solutions proposed seemed already middle aged.

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