

Trustee Charges College Board Erred

Dr. Martin Raps Denial Of Hearing

The controversial question of whether the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees was right in its decision to ignore a request from student body representatives for an open meeting to discuss the recent firing of six probationary teachers drew fire from one of the Trustees Monday.

Notice of the dismissals was given to the Trustees by President Dr. Eric Bradner as the concluding item in the Jan. 17 meeting. It came in a matter of fact announcement that the administration had decided not to issue new contracts to the six probationary teachers for the 1968-69 college year.

It was received by the Trustees without comment and was taken as a matter of course action.

Then two days later, representatives of the student body asked for and received permission to sit in on a closed meeting of the Faculty Forum, the recognized bargaining agent for the faculty, where the dismissals were discussed.

Feeling that the firings could result in lowering the quality of education, since such summary action might keep teachers from applying for positions at Schoolcraft, the student representatives met in an informal session with two members of the Board and received a promise of an open meeting provided the request was received in time for a 48-hour notice to the Trustees.

Unfortunately, Chairman Harold Fischer was unable to get a quorum for such a meeting and did call an executive session at which the Trustees made several recommendations and findings which were reported in the Observer a week ago. However, apparently the Trustees were not unanimous in the informal actions at the executive session since Dr. George Martin, of Livonia, chairman of Business Education and Office Administration, College of Commerce and Finance at the University of Detroit, Friday mailed a memorandum to all Board members expressing his views on the situation.

In a letter to the Observer, Dr. Martin states "I submit to you for publication a rebuttal of the article on Jan. 31. The 'letter' article to the Observer gives the impression that the Board was unanimous in its decision to reject a public hearing and that there was unanimous agreement with respect to the points listed. Nothing could be further from the truth. I was quite outspoken at the Board meeting of January 17 with respect to my opposition to the action the Board was proposing, and I have been persistent since in requesting the Board to give the faculty an opportunity to be heard.

"Even the most vicious criminal in this country is entitled to be heard, and the faculty are far from being vicious criminals. They have consistently been denied this right. I ask that you publish my views as expressed in the attached memorandum so that the electorate to whom I am responsible and the faculty both would know my position with regard to this matter.

The news-reading public is entitled to hear both sides of the issue just as I feel the Board should have heard both the faculty and the administration before making the decisions it did make. Perhaps my views are wrong; this remains to be seen. But at least my views should be made public."

FOLLOWING is the memorandum which clearly explains the views of Dr. Martin.

The Board recalls from our meeting of January 17, I went on record as being opposed to denying the faculty the right to be heard in either open or closed session in the matter of what I felt, and what the faculty generally felt, was the arbitrary dismissal of six probationary faculty members. "In addition, I was also opposed in principle to statements made in the letter circulated to the Board by Chairman Harold Fischer and which were printed in the January 31 issue of the Livonia Observer.

"There have been quite a few telephone conversations,

letters, and memoranda among Board Members in which I felt faculty contractual and human and civil rights were being violated, to say nothing of the heaps of blame being mercilessly piled upon the faculty for the present unschoolcraft situation now existing at Schoolcraft College.

"The consensus of the Board appears to be that the administration has done no wrong and that the faculty has done all wrong. The faculty has also been accused of breach of contract in connection with this matter.

"Let us examine the last two statements above while we examine, at the same time, our consciences. Who really acted illegally?

"On page 18 of the Schoolcraft College Self-Study, submitted as a public document to the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, appears the following statement of Board procedure:

"The Board establishes policies for the control and government of the Community College District. . . reviews and passes on the recommendations of the President regarding the appointment or dismissal of personnel. . .

"It is my opinion that the above excerpt is one of the legal provisions under which the Board operated and which was contravened by the administration when it discharged these probationary people without first having had the Board review or pass on these discharges.

"As a matter of fact, the Board will recall that Dr. Bradner merely mentioned in passing after the Board meeting was adjourned that six probationary faculty and six maintenance people would not be offered full-time contracts. This action does not appear in the Board minutes. The Board did not give any names, reasons, procedures, or any kind of information whatsoever concerning these people.

"In this same connection, think back to last summer when Dr. Bradner had hired several new faculty members under a salary scale that had not yet even been approved by the Board and without the Board reviewing or passing on these appointments, as required under the procedures already quoted.

"Since the contract which presently exists is a contract between the Board and the faculty and not between the Administration and the faculty, did the Administration have any legal right whatsoever to discharge six faculty members without prior approval of the Board?

"The question of legality that I raise here should have been studied by the Board's attorney before any action was taken by the administration; and if the point that I raise here is proved, then certainly the Board owes it to these probationary people and to the electorate in general to review their cases very carefully with respect to principles and procedures that are objective, pertinent, and consistent with generally accepted policy as it exists in well-administered schools throughout the country."

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Don Hoenshell Tells Of 'Scoop' On TV Show

Donald Hoenshell, Editor of Observer Newspapers, will start in on an unfamiliar role today: as a television personality. Hoenshell will appear at 7 p.m. on "City Room," a feature on Channel 56, an educational television station in Detroit, in connection with a story broken exclusively by Observer Newspapers.

This was that the Committee of 99, a citizen group dealing with local government in the Detroit metropolitan area, had requested the Wayne County Board of Supervisors to put a county bond rule charter measure on the ballot at the next election.



DONALD HOENSHELL



Second Front Page

SPSC To Fight Gas Rate Hike

LANSING -- The State Public Service Commission has filed a petition with the Federal Power Commission to intervene in a petition for a wholesale gas rate increase sought by Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co. The proposed higher rates would increase the cost of gas to Michigan utilities by about \$4.8 million.

WASHINGTON -- An area mine was among five Michigan men who were named in a list of 40 servicemen killed in action in Vietnam, which the Defense Department has released. Lance Cpl. Patrick J. McKinley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. McKinley of Trenton, was the casualty.

LANSING -- The first in a series of public hearings to designate specific water uses to be protected by Michigan under state standards for inland lakes and streams will be Feb. 21 in Ann Arbor. The hearing by the State Water Resources Commission will deal with waters in southeastern Michigan.

LANSING -- The State Highway Department has announced it is accepting applications for 100 spots on a technician training program. The program will include on-the-job training and classroom study.

DETROIT -- General Motors Corp. may be hit with more strikes by the end of the week. United Auto Workers officials at the Pontiac Motor Division manufacturing and assembly plant in Pontiac set Friday as a strike deadline date for agreement on a new pact.

State And Local

CONCORD, N.H. -- Gov. George Romney said Richard M. Nixon realizes now that his opponent is no pushover in the New Hampshire presidential primary. Romney also renewed his demand that the former vice-president face him in campaign debate, saying the voters won't settle for "hide-and-seek" tactics. Nixon refused.

SACINAW -- Timothy J. Dyer, 30, of 625 Cornell, Ypsilanti, the present assistant principal of Wayne Memorial High School, has been named one of the five outstanding young men of the year at the annual winter board meeting of the Michigan Junior Chamber of Commerce. He taught social studies from 1961-64 at Wayne Memorial and at John Glenn High School from 1964-66.

LANSING -- State Budget Bureau Director Glenn Allison said that Michigan's new personal income tax is bringing in a lot more money than originally predicted. Royce also renewed his demand that the former vice-president face him in campaign debate, saying the voters won't settle for "hide-and-seek" tactics. Nixon refused.

LANSING -- State Rep. James Del Rio (D-Detroit) fired a shot in a bid to break into the building housing his office on Detroit's west side, he told police Sunday. It was the fourth time within a month that the building which Del Rio owns had been the target of a break-in. A police check of the alley behind his office revealed no sign that either of the two men had been hit.

KALAMAZOO -- A pure-bred Beagle named Barney is helping 16 youngsters in Gull Lake Elementary School in Barry County learn how to read. The children are interested in him and what he does. . . now that they are reading about him. Besides being the hero of the children and being doted upon by them, Barney will soon be the subject of a forthcoming novel called "Barney the Beagle." The stories in the book come right from the children and are for children who have trouble reading.

LANSING -- Barrand S. Pazzan, president of American Motor Corp., has charged that Michigan's motor tariffs have been fixed to favor General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. in a complaint filed with the Public Service Commission. Pazzan charged GM and Ford have been receiving preferential treatment for 10 years--since the PSC approved special point-to-point rates that allegedly are restricted to Ford and GM shipping routes in Michigan.

Observer Publisher Lists Editorial Staff Changes

A series of realignments in the editorial staff of Observer Newspapers, including development of the position of overall Editor, was announced today by Publisher Philip H. Power.

The changes were linked with the creation of a central copy desk to handle all editorial copy printed by the group of six community newspapers serving Livonia, Plymouth, Farmington, Redford Township, Westland and Garden City.

Named by Power as Editor was Donald Hoenshell, 44, who has previously been Editor of the Livonia Observer. He will be responsible for overall administrative direction, planning and coordination of the editorial staff of Observer Newspapers.

Replacing Hoenshell as Editor of the Livonia Observer will be Ralph R. Reed, who has served as a staff writer since May, 1967.

Heading up the central copy desk, which will be located at Observer Newspapers' production offices in Plymouth, will be Managing Editor Richard T. Thompson. He will be aided by Assistant Managing Editor Timothy Richard.

Thompson will continue to be in day to day charge of direction for the newspaper group.

HOENSHELL joined Observer Newspapers in April, 1967, after a year spent as Director of the newly-formed Legislative Service Bureau, a non-partisan division of the state government set up to serve the state legislature in Lansing.

Before that, the veteran Michigan newsmen had served for 14 years with The Detroit News, including 12 years with the News' Lansing bureau and two years as head of the City-County bureau in Detroit.

Hoenshell was born in Midland and graduated from



RICHARD THOMPSON

Michigan State University in 1950. His extensive newspaper career has included work for the Alpena News, the Midland Daily News, the Lansing State Journal, the Detroit Free Press and the Day City Times, in addition to his positions with Observer Newspapers.

Hoenshell has received many writing awards during his career, including several won for his on-the-scene coverage of the Jackson Prison riot in 1952.

THOMPSON (better known as "Tommy") has been associated with Observer Newspapers for eight years, having been originally hired in 1961 by the late Paul Chandler as Editor of the Plymouth Observer.

His responsibilities were broadened just before Chandler's death in December, 1964, and his position as Managing Editor was confirmed by Power when he acquired the newspapers in 1966.

Having delivered newspapers as a carrier boy from the age of seven, it was natural for Thompson to turn to journalism as a career, and after college served as Sports Editor of the



TIM RICHARD

Warren Tribune-Chronicle for 13 years.

His work attracted the eye of the famous Sports Editor of the Chicago Tribune, Arch Ward, and he joined the staff for three years as an Assistant Sports Editor under Ward.

Thompson then was hired by the Detroit Free Press and served for 18 years in the sports department, 15 of them as Executive Sports Editor, before joining the Observer group.

TIM RICHARD, 32, who joined Observer Newspapers in January, 1967, as Assistant Managing Editor is a home grown product of Overland.

Born in Detroit, he attended Redford High School, and then went to get his BA degree from the University of Michigan in 1957 and a Masters of Business Administration in 1959.

He joined the St. Joseph (Mich.) Herald-Press in 1959 and served as Assistant News Editor until 1962, when he moved to the Kalamazoo Gazette. While at the Gazette, Richard was Business Editor and chief political writer.

Richard is the winner of six Associated Press state-wide



RALPH R. REED

writing awards.

REED MOVES EASILY into his new responsibilities as Livonia Observer Editor, for his career in journalism spans well over 40 years.

He came to Observer Newspapers after compulsory retirement from Wayne State University's public relations staff, to "have fun in my old age, writing, editing, and doing the things that metropolitan daily desks left little time for.

Reed's experience on metropolitan dailies is extensive, having served for 26 years at the Detroit News, much of it as State Editor directing coverage of Michigan and state government activities. He retired from the News in 1963.

He was born 72 years ago in Tipton, Indiana, served in World War I, and took courses at Notre Dame and Wayne State Universities.

"THOSE ADMINISTRATIVE changes are yet another sign of our development plans for the Observer Newspapers," Power said.

"I am convinced they will make a substantial contribution to the improvement of the papers."

1968 MICHIGAN AUTO PLATES NOW on SALE

WONDERLAND CIVIC ROOM (NEAR PACKER'S)

BANK

ROBINSON

PACKER'S

FEDERAL'S

WARDS

PLYMOUTH ROAD

MIDDLEBELT

BRANCH OFFICE

MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE

JAMES M. HARE SECRETARY OF STATE

OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9:30 TO 5:30

SATURDAYS 10 TO 6 p.m.