

Loyola sit-in ends

Quebec Gov. enquiry

(Montreal (Cup-Gazette). The six day sit-in at Loyola College in Montreal ended last week when police reinforced by members of the Montreal riot squad surrounded the administration building.

The students had been protesting against the planned cutback of 27 professors, 17 of whom are in the English department.

Reasons given by the Loyola administration spokesmen for not renewing the 27 contracts were an an-

anticipated decrease in student enrolment and a desire to improve academic standards.

Students and faculty had claimed the administration firings were aimed at removing professors who supported student efforts to gain binding arbitration by the Canadian Association of Teachers in the case of S. A. Santhanam, a nuclear physics professor dismissed by the administration at the beginning of the fall term without stated reason.

The sit-in was supported by Loyola's student council who early in the

crisis demanded that the Jesuit administration retract the 27 letters of non-renewal of contract issued just before the Christmas holidays and gave the university two weeks to comply.

The council said "at the very minimum" the non-renewals - actually, firings must be considered null and void "until there is evidence that all customary procedures or their equivalent have been implemented."

Departmental officials at the college have said they were not consulted in

the firings and although they submitted recommendations to the administration on contract renewal, the recommendations were ignored and not acknowledged.

Although on Tuesday January 6, approximately 1,000 students booed administration president Patrick Malone when he failed to produce statistics backing up his claim that the firings were justified by an anticipated decrease in enrollment at Loyola next year, their students' council's decision to vote \$50 to provide food and other supplies for approximately 70 students sitting-in indefinitely in front of Malone's office and to authorize the council executive to grant further money as needed by the demonstrators, came as a surprise to many at Loyola as many of the councillors were elected on anti-activist programs.

As the crisis neared its peak the number of students sitting in at the Loyola administration building tripled to almost 200.

And on Friday, January 9, some 1,200 students watched quietly as the college's English department was laid to rest in the snow in front of the campus chapel.

Friday had been declared a "day of mourning" for the English department, which stands to lose 17 of its 43 professors through the administration action.

The administration had earlier shrugged off the resignation of English chairman A. G. Hooper, who said the purge - affecting 17 members of his department made his position "intolerable".

Malone accepted Hooper's resignation in a press release, and suggested Hooper should leave the college entirely.

Malone "considered it extraordinary and even illogical that Dr. Hooper would intend to remain a member of Loyola's teaching staff".

"The fears you express are such, it seems to me, that you would not want to be affiliated with Loyola in anyway," Malone said.

Faculty resistance to the administration actions took the form of withholding Christmas examination results from the college's record office. Members have also expressed an intention to advertise in Canadian

and American academic journals, urging academics to avoid Loyola.

Classes were cancelled for the day of mourning.

The burial of a plain, black coffin in front of the Loyola chapel followed a funeral procession around the campus led by members of the English department and students carrying crosses.

A student eulogy over the "grave" was followed by an oration delivered by Donald Theall, chairman of the English department of McGill University.

English Faculty and students threatened to strike January 26 if the administration refused to change its position on the firings.

Other departments, including history are expected to follow suit.

Psychology and history students were boycotting their classes in sympathy for the English students.

Noting that five of the English professors fired by the administration have degreed from such universities as Yale and Harvard, neither students nor faculty appear ready to accept Malone's explanation that the professors were released to "up-grade academic standards" and to adjust to an anticipated reduction at Loyola next year.

Faculty and students charge that the professors are the victims of a political purge, brought on by their support of students protesting against the unexplained firing of nuclear physics professor S. A. Santhanam.

Administration president Malone left the campus prior to the end of the crisis travelling to Texas for an unstated period of time.

Before the students abandoned their positions in the administration building they had been warned by Dr. Donald Savage, leader of the Association of Loyola professors, had warned the group occupying the Gaudagni Lunge to disperse or risk police action.

The student leaders were unwilling to risk an eviction notice because they said it would damage their image.

Meanwhile in Quebec City, a meeting between five Loyola officials and Yves Martin, deputy minister of education, resulted in government assurance that an enquiry will be set up to review the situation at Loyola.



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