

"Daily" Managing Board Suspended By Students' Council After Conflict

Meeting Called Today to Consider Re-organization of College Paper — Reasons For Suspension is Abuse of Trust Through Resignation Without Warning — Council Issues Statement Explaining Position And Action Taken as Well as Detailing all Matter Relating to Dispute.

BY a unanimous vote, the Students Executive Council of McGill University last night suspended the Managing Board of the McGill Daily for an indefinite period. The reason for the suspension was the abuse of the Board of the trust vested in them, inasmuch as they resigned without warning, so leaving the Daily without any management with consequent detrimental results to the prestige of the university, the financial standing the paper and the well-being of other undergraduate activities dependent on the Daily.

The following is the text of a statement issued by the council last night.

THE RESOLUTION

Moved by A. Watt and seconded by S. Ebbitt, that The present Managing Board of the McGill Daily be suspended indefinitely for abusing the trust placed in them by the Students' Society; that is by resigning without giving fair notice to the Students' Executive Council, by stating that they deliberately circulated their story of the dispute in outside papers and thus jeopardised the interest of the student body particularly as represented by those campus organizations which depend on the Daily for their publicity and affecting contractual relations of the student body with outsiders when they had a perfectly sound recourse by calling a meeting of the Students' Society in an appeal against the decision of the Students' Executive Council.

Carried unanimously.

Original Dispute

A meeting of the Students' Executive Council was held on Monday, December 5th. During the ordinary course of business the President reported that he had received criticism of an article published in the Daily on November 30th. The Editor-in-Chief of the McGill Daily, who was ex-officio a member of the Students' Council, stated that this was the first that he had heard of any such criticism and made a defence of the publication of the article in question.

He did not inform the Council that the criticism of the article by college authorities had already been made to the Managing Board of the Daily and that at a general meeting of the Daily staff held on the previous Wednesday, and presided over by the Editor-in-Chief, the publication of similar articles was formally forbidden. Indeed the reporting of this action by the Daily Board would have been inconsistent with the Editor-in-Chief's defence of the article at the meeting of the Council. It is not suggested that the Editor-in-Chief withheld this information deliberately, but the result was the same.

Felt Ignored

A majority of the Council, feeling that the past advice given to the Daily Board through the medium of the Editor-in-Chief had been ignored, passed a motion suspending the person responsible for the publication of the article. The members of the

Council who voted for this motion now admit, as will appear later, that they would not have done so had they been in possession of the fact that preventative action had already been taken by the Daily Board.

This information was communicated to individual members of the Council after the meeting had broken up. Others were informed the following day—Tuesday—; but it was found impossible to convene a special meeting of the Students' Council at short notice to reconsider the situation.

Editor Takes Blame

In the meantime, the responsibility for the publication of the article was assumed by the News Editor, who, therefore, stood automatically suspended by the terms of the motion. The Editor-in-Chief then asked the President of the Council whether the suspension stood. He replied in the affirmative, as obviously it could only be rescinded by a vote of the Council which had passed it. The Editor-in-Chief then verbally tendered his resignation to the President if the suspension stood, when he must have known that no action could be taken till the Council met.

Later in the evening the Editor-in-Chief visited the President and withdrew his resignation, pleading the need of "a couple of days" to reconsider his decision, during which the Daily would be published as usual. This was granted as it also gave the Council time to reconsider theirs in the light of the new facts.

Hear of Resignation

At 11.45 p.m. the President of the Council heard indirectly from a chance visitor to the Daily office that the entire editorial staff of the Daily had decided to resign that very night as a protest against the Council's action. The President, in the company of some members of the Council, then visited the Herald office and there, chancing to meet the Editor-in-Chief, received from him a written resignation. The President allowed the entire issue as set up by the resigning board to go to press.

At a full meeting of the Students' Council held last night, the Editor-in-Chief and the Managing Editor appeared. It was not possible to secure the attendance of the News Editor. Questioned by the Council, the Editor-in-Chief admitted that he had "perhaps" omitted at the previous meeting of the Council to acquaint the members present with the fact that the Daily Board had previously taken disciplinary action on account of the publication of the offensive article. As

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