

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

FREDERICTON, N.B., CANADA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

30 November 1970

Mr. David Jonah
Editor
Brunswickan
Campus Mail

Dear Mr. Jonah:

Although your editorial last week invited a response from Mrs. Spicer, I hope that you may be willing to print my comments on this matter. First of all, I feel that Mrs. Spicer may have made a mistake in not giving a clearer and fuller explanation when she was contacted.

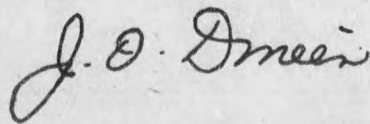
In your editorial you very fairly stated that Mrs. Spicer had tackled her job "with drive, energy, and determination." I agree with this statement. The issue as you have raised it is whether she has done anything serious enough to offset her previous accomplishments.

Obviously, the private affairs of a University employee only become the University's concern if they interfere with the employee's work or effectiveness. It should be noted that Mrs. Spicer is not primarily in the house-renting business. The house in question was one which she would much rather have sold. The question then is whether, in the present case, there was a conflict of interest - legal or otherwise.

Certainly, legally, there is no conflict. If she were in business renting to students there obviously could be a conflict of interest. I was particularly impressed by the argument that had she rented her house to students, and had any dispute arisen later, her position would have been extremely difficult. It appears to us, in fact, that it is prudent for the Accommodations Officer not to rent to students, precisely because it could be hard to maintain a normal landlord-tenant position.

In my view, therefore, Mrs. Spicer has not been guilty of anything more serious than an error in judgement. Few of us have been able to avoid some occasion when we said something which we later wished we could take back. It seems to me, therefore, that she deserves to retain the confidence of the University, the students and the public.

Yours sincerely,



J. O. Dineen
President

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