

Salary negotiations started

Faculty walkout postponed indefinitely

The planned walkout by the York University Faculty Association will NOT take place as planned tomorrow.

After a meeting with the Salaries Committee of the Board of Governors Saturday, it was decided to "defer" any action.

According to association president Fred Schindeler "they collapsed in front of us. They couldn't come up with anything definite, but a great deal of progress was made on the issue of the principles involved."

Another member of the Faculty Association



William Pearson Scott, Chairman, Board of Governors

'Passports no good'

Biafrans held at Malton

By Larry Goldstein

Four Biafran students were held for over five hours on Saturday by Malton Immigration officials. Winston Ibi bell - Gam, 24, Okechokwu Emodi, 28, Kamalu Ukwuije, 28, and Ugah Igba, 27, all University of Biafra undergraduates, were told that their Biafran passports were "no good".

TWO ALTERNATIVES

In spite of letters of invitation from two University of Toronto student organizations, The Biafran Student Organization, and the Canadian Union for the Rights of Biafrans, the young men were told that they had only two alternatives. Either they could sign a statement voluntarily withdrawing their application for entry and leave voluntarily or they would be deported. The Biafrans refused to sign that form, but prepared one of their own which they felt adequately explained the circumstances of their leaving. The Immigration officials refused to accept it.

At no time did the Immigration officials inform the students of their legal position. After their refusal to sign the voluntary withdrawal form, they are subject to a Special

Inquiry at which time they are entitled to legal counsel. If the Special Inquire Officer orders them deported, then they have the right of appeal, again with a lawyer present. Immigration officials at Malton did not inform the students of these rights.

After the intercession of several people, including David Lewis, NDP parliamentary leader, in Ottawa the young men were allowed to enter Canada. The Immigration official apologized for the delay and said the reason was that they had to "verify the documents."

"The reason for our being here," said Kamalu Ukwuije, a law student and spokesman for the group, "is that the American National Students Association felt that the Biafran case has not been adequately presented to the North American public. The American State Department has done much to keep our side from telling its story. The reasons are partly because the American government has diplomatically recognized Nigeria and partly because the State Department's man on the African desk is Joseph Palmer, who is a former ambassador to Nigeria. Naturally he made friends with members of the federal government and feels

(YUFA) Executive, Harvey Simmons, stated that "the Board have suddenly become aware of our seriousness."

DIDN'T WANT 18%

When pressed to disclose whether a salary agreement had been reached, he wouldn't state an exact figure, but did say "we weren't really after the 18%."

That figure was just for bargaining; we took to them a maximum figure, and bargain from that."

This contrasts strongly with an earlier statement by Dr. Schindeler that "we will have won once we get that 18%."

Now he feels that the matter will be looked into in a more serious light by the Board.

At that time, Simmons made the statement that "we're striking for salaries. The reason people support us is because we're striking for salaries."

Topics of discussion at that (Saturday) meeting included granting the faculty almost complete access to the priorities and budget of the university."

STUDENTS SCREWED

There is now some speculation that the YUFA used student support engendered by their claim to seek a 'democratization' to pressure the Board into concessions.

This argument is countered in Simmons' statement Saturday that "they (the Board) were simply not aware of the possible power of a strike."

The walk-out repeal resulted from over a week of public debate and discussion of the matter with students.

The YUFA executive proposed a motion to a general meeting over a week ago, at which time it was agreed that a one-day walk-out should take place February 25.

At that time, the faculty were seeking a raise in basic salaries of 18%, coupled with "the establishment of educational priorities, such the

an obligation to help them if he can."

BIAFRA'S AIMS

When asked what Biafra's aims are, Mr. Ukwuije replied that, "Biafra is seeking the right to self-determination. We are seeking men among the civilized nations of the world who will bring pressure to bear on Britain and Russia to stop supplying arms to Nigeria. Once Nigeria stops fighting, the war will be over. We have no war aims but independence, which we have now."

"Biafra is a viable independent, autonomous state with a population of fourteen million. There are a wealth of natural resources including coal, oil, lead, zinc, natural gas and gold. (The oil is so naturally rich that when the Nigerians captured our only refinery we put crude oil in our vehicles and ran them that way.) Our agriculture is diversified. We can export rubber, copra, cocoa, and palm oil. In normal years we can grow enough food to feed our population."

The students will be at the University of Toronto on Monday, Scarborough College on Tuesday, and Glendon College on Wednesday. They will continue after that on a cross-Canada college lecture tour.

Board compromise

At a meeting of the Board of Governors Salary, Benefits and Organization Committee on Saturday, the board agreed to a four-point plan to compromise the YUFA demands:

- 1) Access to the York University budget for the York University Faculty Association.
- 2) A guaranteed 10% pay increase for continuing faculty, effective July 1, 1969.
- 3) The board will reassess the budget and study means of allocating more money to faculty salaries.
- 4) The board will meet again with YUFA on March 12, 1969, after the provincial budget has come in, to discuss again the question of an increase in faculty salaries.

allocation of funds to the educational resources within the university."

FUTURE STRIKE POSSIBLE

"The failure of the Board of Governors to provide adequate action," according to Schindeler, "prompted the YUFA to contemplate further actions, not excluding future strikes, should the Board not meet these demands."

"By this action", he said, "we are setting a precedent. The achievement of this reform will establish the principle of community participation in the decision-making processes."

Apparently YUFA feel this has been accomplished, although they were given no written assurances that the Board would comply on Saturday.

Experience has shown the Board very reluctant to take presentations seriously, and this year, as in the past, a written point by point response to YUFA's brief was requested.

Thus far, as in the past, the response has been polite silence.

This is in contrast with a statement by York president Murray Ross.

"I'm not sure what they want exactly. Are they just after more money or are they dissatisfied with their treatment by the Board, or is it the question of power distribution?"

At a meeting with the Salaries Committee of the Board, to which faculty were invited, only three faculty turned out. It didn't show very strong support for their demands.

The committee met again, and outlined four proposals to deal with the matter. While these were being considered, YUFA took the action they did."

The administration has furnished figures that dispute the YUFA figures.

REQUEST DISMISSED

At the January 29 meeting of the Salaries Committee of the Board, the request for the 18 per cent raise was dismissed as "anticipated government grants and the resources of the university cannot permit further improvement (of salary conditions) without serious reductions in other budgets and/or increased teaching loads."

Government allotments will not be released until March 5.

The Committee questioned "that the proposed York rates (faculty are being offered 6%) do not compare favourably with those at other Ontario universities."

Walkout still on for some...

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