

Some of the events in political harassment

(cont'd from p. 12)

All the panelists finished their speeches, interrupted only by a few corrections from the floor and another bloody attack by the small group of law students against which the demonstrators again defended themselves.

October 31, 1970

Prof. Samek was met by two communists who denounced him for his role in the October 29th attack on the demonstrators. Within a few hours he arranged their arrest on charges of assault. This led to the incarceration of the two communists for several months in mental hospitals and jails even though Professor Samek testified himself later in court that he was touched only once lightly on the chest.

In view of the many malicious lies which have been circulated, it is necessary to point out that no other instances of alleged "violence" involving communists or their supporters and members of the university community have taken place or even been alleged.

November 1, 1970

The chairman of mathematics summoned me to an interrogation by Dean MacLean late Sunday evening. From that interrogation Dean MacLean concluded that I hold the opinion that "fascists have no right to speak". The claim that I hold this opinion has been until now (March 21) the nearest thing to a reason offered for my dismissal. On that occasion I repeatedly maintained that the people have full rights to question fascist speakers, to expose the anti-scientific methods of pro-fascist speakers, and to demand that apparently pro-fascist speakers clarify their position.

When he asked how I would react to a specific fascist (Dean MacLean's own characterization) who had been politically active during the Nazi era and whom President Hicks had invited, I replied that what the man would have to say might be most interesting from a historical point of view. I reiterated my opinion (expressed in the Senate on Oct. 19) that the asking of serious questions should tend to promote serious discussion rather than to "disrupt" it.

November 6, 1970

Around this date an intensive propaganda campaign arose in the Chronicle Herald etc. which was obviously designed to prepare public opinion for a purge of all those teachers and students who oppose imperialism and fascism. This campaign included the slander that I do not "allow anyone to express an opinion differing from my own", a slander which has been repeated by several without investigation.

In fact the experience is rather reversed, namely that I am being dismissed because my views differ from those of a few who happen to hold power in the university. Various vicious lies also started to be spread by Professor Braybrooke and others, for example that I had threatened Professor Samek's family with guns. . . . These baseless lies, I later learned, have been circulated in several major cities as well as in my own department.

November 17, 1970

I was summoned by President Hicks, who in the presence of Vice President McKay issued the following orders:

a) that I would not "lead" any more demonstrations

b) that I would tell my "followers" to desist from further "physical attacks" on campus

c) that I would not organize any more "Maoist" meetings in the Weldon Building.

When I suggested that President Hicks had an obligation to investigate the facts behind the allegations presupposed in his arrogant orders, Dr. McKay admonished me "but its the President talking!"

The facts:

a) The demonstration was led by the Dalhousie Student Movement and not by me. Faculty members have every right to participate in demonstrations against fascism.



Lawvere was not the only one demonstrating against the WMA. Others hold their signs of protest at the Law Building discussion.

b) Contrary to the libels in the 4th Estate I am not the "cunning and callous manipulator" of anybody. Indeed, under the guidance of Mao Tsetung Thought, people are quite capable of analyzing and acting as well as correcting their mistakes without instructions from a petty bourgeois Professor.

Concerning "physical attacks" see October 29/31 above.

c) The Progressive Natural Sciences Study Group has continued to meet for its intended purpose of serious academic discussion of various questions in natural science and mathematics, in disregard for the above arbitrary order against it.

I took the opportunity to request that Dr. McKay investigate the refusal by Dr. MacPherson of the Medical School to allow the Progressive Natural Sciences Study Group to hold some of its meetings in the Tupper Building. Though the vice-President agreed, he has never informed me of the result.

November 19, 1970

The appointments committee for the Mathematics Department questioned me about the content of my Math 304 course. My attempt to outline the applications of dialectical and historical materialism to teaching and research

in the foundations of analysis was interrupted by the question "did you ever mention the word "fascism" in your course?" which was immediately followed by the explanation that since I had mentioned the word, my reappointment would not be recommended by the questioner. I asked whether I would be given an opportunity to present my own case to the appointments committee to which the Chairman replied "if appropriate". Apparently it never was appropriate.

November 25, 1970

Communication that the committee would not recommend my reappointment.

December 9, 1970

Graduate and Honors Students in Math voted in favor of my reap-

mentioned above. Most remained silent but the opinion was several times expressed that a decision had already been reached by the administration and that the department members were therefore powerless.

The most serious of the lies and slanders which had been circulated were not even brought up and since I learned about them only much later I could not defend myself. It was agreed that a department vote should be held on Dec. 16. The Chairman adjourned the meeting however before there could be any discussion of the motion. In view of that I placed a note in the hallway stating that I would be available to answer any questions; this note was removed by someone during the night.

The chairman also arbitrarily dissolved the Appointments Committee (of which I am a member) in order that his later recommendation against the reappointment of another mathematics teacher would not be opposed.

On the same day, the chairman of mathematics together with Professor Comeau introduced into the Senate a resolution upholding the dismissal of students and faculty who are allegedly "disruptive".

December 15, 1970

Dean MacLean stated in the presence of the Dean of Graduate Studies and another Mathematics Professor that he had already reached a negative decision since "people who hold signs and shout are detrimental to the university".

December 16, 1970

Department vote 13 to recommend reappointment, 18 not to recommend, 5 abstentions.

December 17, 1970

Dean MacLean stated that the reasons for his negative decision had not been any particular activity on my part, but rather the general reaction in the university community to my presence. He refused to specify which section of the university community he had in mind.

January 12, 1971

Only communication in writing from the administration (enclosed).

January 18 - 21

A successful conference on category theory, intuitionistic logic and algebraic geometry was held at Dalhousie according to a long-standing plan of mine. The majority of participants, having informed themselves concerning the political persecution which is going on, exposed their disapproval through letters and a petition.

March 8, 1971

In a meeting of the mathematics department, the chairman stated the two well-known mathematicians from Columbia had "misused research funds" by circulating a petition during his stay at Dalhousie in January. In view of the fact that the visitor gave the colloquium lecture for which he had been invited and made important contributions to scientific discussion the mathematics conference, this attack on the scientists who invited him shows clearly that the fascist principle is still being upheld that scientists should do only the work for which they are paid and should not be permitted to comment on the society in which they are directly involved nor to organize to defend themselves against political persecution.

pointment.

Early December

The President of the C A U T was apparently led by Dean MacLean to believe that a statement by me favoring freedom of expression would be sufficient to solve the whole matter. At least, three of my colleagues for several days entertained a renewed faith in the reasonableness of the administration after a discussion to that effect with the C A U T President. They were rewarded on December 15 with Dean MacLean's offhand dismissal of the C A U T President as a "twit" who makes up things.

December 14, 1970

At a meeting of the Mathematics Department the Chairman provided a written statement which gave no coherent reasons for the dismissal but which did state: "as far as I know, persons not offered further contracts in these circumstances need be given no reasons and have no basis for appeal." Several members of the department spoke up clearly to oppose a political firing and to advocate a decision based only on the professional standards of contributions to scientific research and teaching. A few came out to oppose me repeating some of the lies and slanders