

Information concerning the resolution of the Ingham County Democratic Committee and the Young Democrats of Ingham County on the denial of readmission of Mr. Paul Schiff to Michigan State University by the central administration of that school after Mr. Schiff was accepted by the Department of History of that school as an accredited candidate for the Masters degree.

Over the past school year several "campus controversies" have made major news headlines. Perhaps the most publicized of these was the Free Speech Movement on the Berkley campus of the University of California. The basic issue of the Free Speech Movement is the right of students to advocate political and non-academic issues on the university campus.

A similar problem has arisen at Michigan State University this past Spring Term. A group of about 70 students formed an organization called the Committee for Student Rights which raised several major questions concerning both on and off campus issues. Among these were: housing discrimination in East Lansing, inadequate library facilities at MSU, the rapid growth of the university, the role of faculty and administration in a large state-supported institution, and the problem of quality education in a rapidly growing institution. CSR used three primary means of informing the student body of their stand on these issues. These were the student newspaper-the State News-speeches and discussions on campus, and a one-page mimeographed handout entitled Logos. The University does not recognize CSR as a chartered campus organization.

During Spring Term, 1965, Paul Schiff, a graduate student from New York who was not at that time enrolled at MSU, was ordered out of Wilson Hall on the MSU campus by a Resident Assistant (RA) because

he was distributing literature in a manner which the RA believed to be contrary to university policy. Schiff is also editor of, and a contributor to, Logos. In several issues of Logos Schiff stated that CSR would refuse to respect certain university regulations in order to demonstrate to the university the seriousness of the issues with which CSR is concerned. For example, in the April 23, issue of Logos Schiff stated "IN THE INTEREST OF A FREE ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AT MSU, CSR WILL REFUSE TO RESPECT THIS REGULATION (prohibiting door-to-door distribution) AND APPEALS TO THE FACULTY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS TO RESCIND ITS DECISION BEFORE IT CAN BE IMPLIMENTED."

Mr. Schiff came to MSU from Rutgers University with the intent to do graduate study in Economics. By the end of Winter Term, 1965, he had completed the course work for a Masters degree in Economics with a minor in History. During Spring Term, he decided to change his major emphasis and applied for admission to the Department of History as a Masters candidate. In early June he was accepted by the History Department as an accredited M.A. candidate. Several days later he received notice from the Office of Admissions that his application for readmission had been denied. That is, he was accepted by the History Department but not accepted by the central administration of MSU. Mr. Schiff applied for a hearing regarding his readmission. The hearing was denied. The administration, upon subsequent questioning by Dr. Robert Repas, professor of Labor and Industrial Relations, and Dr. Charles Larrowe, professor of Economics, issued a statement through Dean of Students John Fuzak regarding the status of Mr. Schiff. The position of the administration is that Mr. Schiff advocated the disruption of the organization of the university, and that this constitutes grounds for denial of his applica-

tion for readmission. Mr. Schiff, supported by the Lansing Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, has filed suit against the university in order to readmit him. The suit is now pending in Federal Court. Although many guarantees of civil liberties contained in the Bill of Rights are involved in some way in this action, perhaps the principle issue is the right of an administration to usurp the power of an academic department, disciplining a student academically for a violation of non-academic rules.

With this background in mind, a resolution was prepared by Tom Steinfatt, MSU graduate student and chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the Ingham County Young Democrats, and was passed without dissent at the July meeting of that organization after some discussion. The resolution was then introduced by Jim Dart, Chairman of the I.C.Y.D.'s, at the September 15 meeting of the Ingham County Democratic Committee which is composed of all dues-paying Democrats residing in Ingham County. The resolution was again discussed and passed without dissent with an amendment added by Representative H. James Starr of Lansing. Following is the full text of the resolution and amendment.

Since the right of any person to distribute literature, to state and publish what he believes to be true less than libel or slander, and to advocate action less than criminal action in an attempt to demonstrate what he believes to be true, is at worst a cloudy right and at best an inviolatable right,

and since the exercise of a right in such a status can in no way be construed to be cause for denial of further rights of a person,

and since the right to obtain a graduate education at a state university, providing that academic qualifications have been met, is such a further right,

and since the administration of Michigan State University did invoke the exercise of a right in the aforementioned status as sufficient cause for denial of readmission of Mr. Paul Schiff to Michigan State University,

and since said administration did subsequently and summarily deny Mr. Schiff the right of a hearing on the aforementioned denial of readmission,

be it resolved that the Young Democrats of Ingham County / Democratic Committee of Ingham County deplore(s) the action of the central administration of Michigan State University in the denial of readmission of Paul Schiff, and strongly recommend that the administration of Michigan State take immediate steps to readmit Paul Schiff to Michigan State University as a graduate student with all the rights and privileges connected with this status,

* and be it further resolved that the administration of Michigan State University recognize in the future the right of all persons connected with the university to dissent.

Jim Dart

Jim Dart
Chairman, Ingham County
Young Democrats

Tom Steinfatt

Tom Steinfatt
Chairman, Public Affairs
Committee
Ingham County
Young Democrats

for the Ingham County Democratic
Committee and the Young Democrats
of Ingham County.

* the following is the amendment.

JOHN HANNAH
PRESIDENT
ADMINISTRATION BLDG
CAMPUS

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SEP 27 1965

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT