

BSA leaves Wilson cafeteria; committee suggests 9 changes

By JIM SYLVESTER
State News Staff Writer

After nearly 14 hours of negotiation, a special committee appointed by Acting President Walter Adams made nine recommendations Wednesday in response to the Black Students' Alliance's (BSA) charges of racial harassment of black Wilson Hall employees.

BSA initiated a sit-in Monday at the Wilson cafeteria to protest the "dehumanization" of black full-time employees and to expose racism in the University. It was ended late Wednesday evening after the committee's findings were released.

The black students refused to leave the cafeteria or allow meals to be served until the University acted on their recommendations. The students expected the immediate termination of Joseph Trantham, food services manager of Wilson, and Elaine Mishler, head manager, and an immediate commitment that all those who were harassed and abused by them be promoted.

They also wanted the two vacant positions resulting from the terminations to be filled by blacks that will be selected by black students and workers.

After a three-and-a-half hour open forum Tuesday, during which the demands were made, Adams directed a committee of four blacks and four whites

to reach a settlement acceptable to all parties.

Milton B. Dickerson, vice president for student affairs, and Irvin E. Vance, asst. professor of mathematics, acted as co-chairman of the committee. Making up the rest of the committee were E.G. Foster, manager of dormitory and food services, Lyle A. Thorburn, manager of residence halls, Robert C.

Underwood, personnel administrator for dormitory and food services, Carson Hamilton, associate professor of English, Mike Hudson, Inkster freshman and Maina Kenyatta, Kenya graduate student.

The group began their marathon discussion in the Wilson basement, at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and continued until 3 a.m. Wednesday. They reconvened

at 10:30 a.m. same day and finally reached a settlement at 3:40 that afternoon.

Shortly thereafter, Adams held a press conference in the Wilson Auditorium. Speaking to over 400 people, mostly newsmen and students, he said, "I find the recommendations perfectly reasonable and justifiable and I intend to act in accordance with them." The substance of the recommendations are as follows:

That a position be established for black person in the central personnel office with the general function of recruiting black personnel and of getting them placed in the University structure. It is necessary to give on-the-job training in some instances, this person would see that it is provided. The selection of this person shall be made with the advice of BSA and the approval of the director of Equal Opportunity programs and the director of the Center for Urban Affairs."

That immediate steps be taken to (Please turn to page 15)



Onward to Adams

Black students and members of BSA leave Wilson cafeteria Wednesday after their take-over to hear Acting President Adams announce the recommendations of the special committee concerning practices in the cafeteria.

State News photo by Mike Beasley

Wilson protest ends

(continued from page one)

upgrade blacks in residence hall employment, with on-the-job training if necessary."

"That there be an immediate search for and subsequent hiring of a black college graduate to be trained for one of the management positions in

Wilson Hall, with the advice of the BSA."

"That the University administration release a statement condemning the kinds of practices which led to the situation at Wilson Hall."

"That Miss Mishler be transferred out of Wilson Hall and placed in a permanent non-supervisory position."

"That Mr. Trantham be transferred out of Wilson Hall and placed in a permanent non-supervisory position in food service."

"That the President request some knowledgeable faculty

member, such as Dr. Killingsworth professor of labor and industrial relations, to formulate in conjunction with all interested parties some plan for an arbitration system to adjudicate the sort of controversy involved in Wilson Hall."

"That the President request the faculty not to penalize the students involved in the Wilson Hall action."

"That a progress report be forwarded to the entire University, including specifically the BSA and the black faculty, on the above items on June 1 and Oct. 1, 1969."

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Black faculty statement regarding Wilson Hall

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is "An open Letter to the University community regarding the Wilson Hall incident, written by the Black Faculty Committee. It is a statement of position.

Much concern has been expressed by the white community regarding the Wilson cafeteria protest, subsequent developments surrounding the protest, and certain actions taken by Acting President Walter Adams. We, the Black Faculty Committee of MSU, are also concerned about the protest, the presidential decision, and the alleged racism which lead to the action of the BSA.

Since much of the negative reaction has centered around the hearing procedures and not the substance of the issue, namely racism against blacks at MSU, certain facts should be pointed out.

1. As a result of a series of seminars--engaged in by representatives of the administration, faculty, students, and staff members--a recommendation was made that a "Committee of Last Resort" be established to consider cases of this nature. High ranking, well known, and highly revered MSU professors opposed the establishment of such a committee on the basis that such an extraordinary procedure was not necessary.

2. At the February 1969 meeting of the MSU Board of Trustees after cases of racial discrimination involving black faculty and staff had come to light, the "Committee of Last Resort" was explained in detail and again recommended.

3. It has been necessary in recent months for Federal investigators to come to campus to attempt to resolve issues involving discrimination against blacks employed by MSU. Indeed, Federal officials are scheduled to visit MSU this week to hear charges of racial discrimination against a black MSU employee of long standing. If the "Committee of

Last Resort" had been established, these type of issues might have been resolved short of Federal intervention. The Wilson Hall incident could have been referred to such a committee.

In the absence of such procedures, Acting President Adams has acted in what is--in our opinion--a fair and courageous manner, and in the best interest of the total University Community. The forthright action, on the part of the president in this case, was in itself precedent setting. His successful resolution of this issue has not precluded the inevitable surfacing of habitual and latent racists from the campus and the surrounding community.

It is our opinion that the proceedings inside the adjudication chambers were orderly, serious, deliberate (14 hours of discussion) and concluded in a manner in which the University should be proud. We would further point out that the adjudicating committee consisted of a vice president and three high ranking staff members of the residence hall (all white), as well as two members of the BSA and two black faculty members. It is, indeed, quite difficult for us to imagine such a committee reaching any unanimous decision without grave concern for the entire University community--we are confident that this was their primary motivation.

For too long, there has been discussion of order and procedure, we feel it is time for us (MSU faculty, staff and student body) to address ourselves to justice. The black faculty at MSU is committed to a sense of fairness and justice for the total University community. We feel that recent actions taken by the present administration reflects this same commitment to fairness and justice at MSU.

The Black Faculty Committee



RACIAL HEARING

{1969}

Trantham's trial delayed

By BARBARA PARNES
State News Staff Writer

Summer vacations and the absence of key witnesses are major factors barring a second hearing for Joseph Trantham, former Wilson Hall food service manager, said Duane M. Hildebrandt, Lansing attorney for Trantham.

"As a practical matter, the hearing couldn't be held this summer," Hildebrandt stated.

Trantham and former Wilson Hall manager Elaine M. Mishler, both accused of racial discrimination during the Wilson Hall takeover last spring, were transferred to non-supervisory positions as a result of the first

individuals who first brought charges against Trantham and Miss Mishler are not employed by the University this summer, they are both expected back in the fall.

"When you have a number of witnesses, chances are that some of them are not going to be around," he noted.

Hildebrandt said that until last week either he or Trantham was on vacation and could not confer on any actions to be taken.

"We're now in the process of discussing the matter," he added.

Hildebrandt acknowledged receiving a letter dated July 8

said. "I don't know any of the men, but I have to trust that they are professional mediators."

Miss Mishler's attorney has since informed Carr that his client does not wish to participate in a second hearing.

GARLAN ALTOGE

11 DAYS LATER

5/9/69

Tension lingers at Wilson

By CHRIS MEAD
Executive Reporter

It's a large irregularly shaped room filled with round, square and rectangular tables and hundreds of chairs. Architecturally, it's in the brick and glass motif that characterizes much of the impersonality of the multi-versity.

In a word, Wilson Hall cafeteria is institutional--and hardly the place one would think of as the scene of one of the most important confrontations in MSU's 114-year history.

Eleven days have passed since the Black Students' Alliance (BSA) took over the cafeteria and nine days since the committee's 14-hour decisions was made.

Everything looks calm now. Wilson residents are again eating at their home base, and employes are busy preparing three meals a day for the hall's 1,100 students.

But despite the routine exterior of Wilson Hall, an under-

current moves through the sterile, polished kitchen since the demotion of Joseph Trantham, food service manager, and Elaine Mishler, head manager.

The air is so tense, even secretive, that an order has gone down to food service employers forbidding them to speak with reporters about last week's "incident."

John Steen, newly named head manager of Wilson Hall,

man (asst. director of residence halls) and Professor Robert Green for the way they handled the situation."

And Acting President, Walter Adams, who has received his share of criticism from all quarters, received enthusiastic endorsement from Mrs. Hatcher.

"I think he is a man in his rights," he said. He is a real man."

She stood by a large alum-

salads for the evening meal. She had one last comment:

"The whole situation would have been very different if I were white."

Roxie Triplett: Cook in Wilson Hall; seven-year employe with the University; black woman.

Mrs. Triplett's outlook on the "Wilson affair" is categorically different from that of Mrs. Hatcher.

For one thing, she said, that as far as she is concerned, "my problem was not a racial problem."

While Mrs. Hatcher was enthusiastic about the outcome, Mrs. Triplett said she thought the hearing was "unfair" and that she was irked at having been made the "front target" in the hearing.

As a result of her "front target" status, Mrs. Triplett has received a number of harassing phone calls in her home and has lost some friends ("Or at least I thought they were my friends") among her fellow employes.

"I'm a human being and I can only go so far," she said. "The students now look at me like I'm an outcast. I'm afraid to say hello to them because I don't know what their reaction will be."

Mrs. Triplett's "problem" might have stemmed from the fact that she isn't afraid to speak up when she feels her rights are being stepped on. As she puts it, "I have always bitched and I always will bitch about things that are wrong."

The supervisory job which the committee offered her has no appeal for Mrs. Triplett. "As far as I'm concerned, she adamantly says, "they can have the supervisory job--I don't want it."

Joleen Shane: cook; sole support of two children; three-year employe of MSU; black woman.

At the hearing, Mrs. Shane was vocal in her complaints about Elaine Mishler. She is silent now and says she would prefer not to talk about the "Wilson affair" and would like to forget the whole thing.

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~~~~~  
--Roxie Triplett

~~~~~  
said the order did not originate with him, but added that anyone who wished to talk with individual employes should clear it with him first.

But Carolyn Hatcher and Roxie Triplett, two of the key people, had plenty to say, and if the non-communication order applied to them, they didn't seem to care.

Carolyn Hatcher: salad woman, main support of six children, black woman.

"White employes in this cafeteria have been making a lot of cracks and comments to me since the hearing," she said. "But I pity them."

"I'm a proud woman," she emphasized, "and I just put my head in the air and walk on."

Mrs. Hatcher, in answer to those both on and off campus who charge that she avoided "legal channels," said when the first blatant problems of racism came up, she called a representative of the MSU employes union.

"That was two or three months ago," she said, "and he promised to come over here, but he never did."

As far as the three-and-one-half hour hearing goes, Mrs. Hatcher is extremely pleased with the participants and the outcome.

"I am very proud and very appreciative of BSA. Don Cole-

inum salad - mixing bowl and washed celery sticks as she talked. She spoke of Joel Ferguson, member of the Lansing City Council and head of the city's On the Job Training Program.

Ferguson was instrumental in getting the MSU job for Mrs. Hatcher and has been active in defending her against the charges made by Joseph Trantham that she wasn't working up to par.

Referring to a meeting two months ago between Ferguson and Trantham, Mrs. Hatcher said, "If I were wrong, Joel Ferguson would have given me another job."

Much of the criticism of the BSA-sponsored hearing was that it was extra-legal and therefore its decision to demote Miss Mishler and Trantham was not binding. Though Mrs. Hatcher feels the hearing was fair, she said she would be willing to retestify at a legal trial if the situation ever came up.

Mrs. Hatcher, as she put it is a proud woman-- and she is truly "her own woman," too.

"BSA didn't speak for me as the papers said," she maintained. "I speak for myself."

And as the business of preparing meals goes on in Wilson Hall cafeteria, Mrs. Carolyn Hatcher continues to make





## Keeping cool

Acting President Walter Adams met with Milton Dickerson, vice president for student affairs, outside the Wilson cafeteria Tuesday.

State News photo by Lance Lagoni

# Wilson hearing airs charges; BSA stays; decision pending

By JEANNE SADDLER  
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"In the future-- and this is a warning-- when racism exists in a component of this institution, we will close that component down."

The warning was made by Robert L. Green, associate director of the Center for Urban Affairs before approximately 1,000 students and the adjudicating committee set up by Acting President Adams to investigate charges of racial harassment made by the Black Students' Alliance (BSA) against two Wilson Hall administrators.

Stewart Dunning, Lansing attorney, and Ron Bailey of BSA were the spokesman

for the prosecution. Sam Riddle, south complex chairman of BSA, presented the witnesses.

Joseph Trantham, food services manager of Wilson, and Elaine Mishler, head manager, were the accused, defended by Lansing attorney Hildebrand.

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ing: the alleged changing of Mrs. Hatcher's work rating from excellent to sub-standard two weeks later with "personality conflict" given as the reason; the denial of the knowledge of a letter written in support of the complainants; abusive language and threats made by other employees and the failure of the management to act upon the incidents; failure of the management to give Mrs. Hatcher a regular day off; and the reported open acknowledgement by Miss Mishler that she was prejudiced.

Hildebrand, speaking for the defendants, said that some of the incidents did not directly involve the accused, thus requiring no specific comment, and "categorically denied" all the other charges.

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Hatcher that she had a "wonderful" personality, she said he called her to his office and had changed her work rating to below standard because of an alleged personality conflict.

"All we said was 'Good-morning Joe, good-morning Jean; good-bye Joe, good-bye Jean;--now where's the conflict?'," Mrs. Hatcher asked.

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answer Mrs. Shane's question concerning the action that would have been taken if she had sworn at a white employee. Alleged insults ranging from a threat to kick a black person "in the ass" to the telling of contrived lies designed to pit the black staff members against each other were also revealed.

When confronted earlier with her inaction on these issues and accused of being prejudiced against blacks, Miss Mishler allegedly told her employees, "Maybe I am a little bit prejudiced."

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## Milliken opposes sit-in, leaves settlement to 'U'

By LARRY LEE

State News Staff Writer

Although opposed to the black students' sit-in at Wilson cafeteria, Gov. Milliken said Tuesday that he did not intend to interfere with the student take-over.

In response to questions concerning the occupation, the governor said, "I'm not in favor, in fact, I'm strongly opposed to a take-over by any group at any time on any campus."

"But the decision when to act must be left to the administrators."

Milliken's statements reaffirmed the policy that he made last month concerning non-interference with campus disruption unless university official asked for advice.

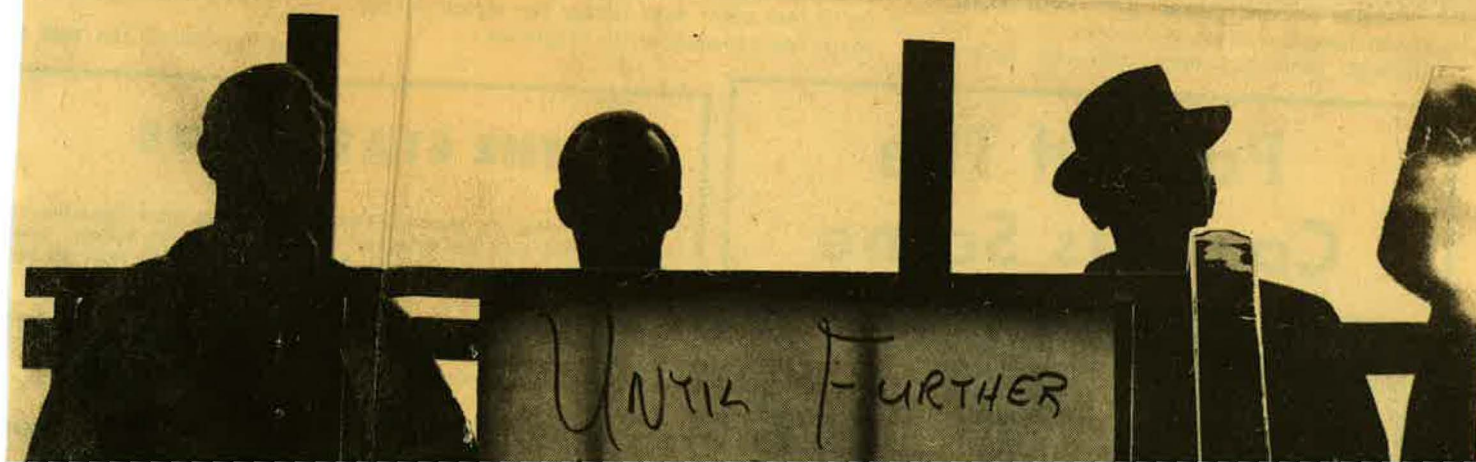
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officials to remove the trespassers and I will take no action unless asked," he said.

University administrators must make the decisions if the law is broken so that educational opportunity is deprived, Milliken said. "They must take action because they're the closest."

He asserted that the violation of that principle has caused more problems on the campuses than it has solved.

A reporter also asked about the governor's role in the day-to-day operation of MSU. Milliken said he was very interested in its operation, but that the governing board and administration has the day-to-day responsibility of operating the University.





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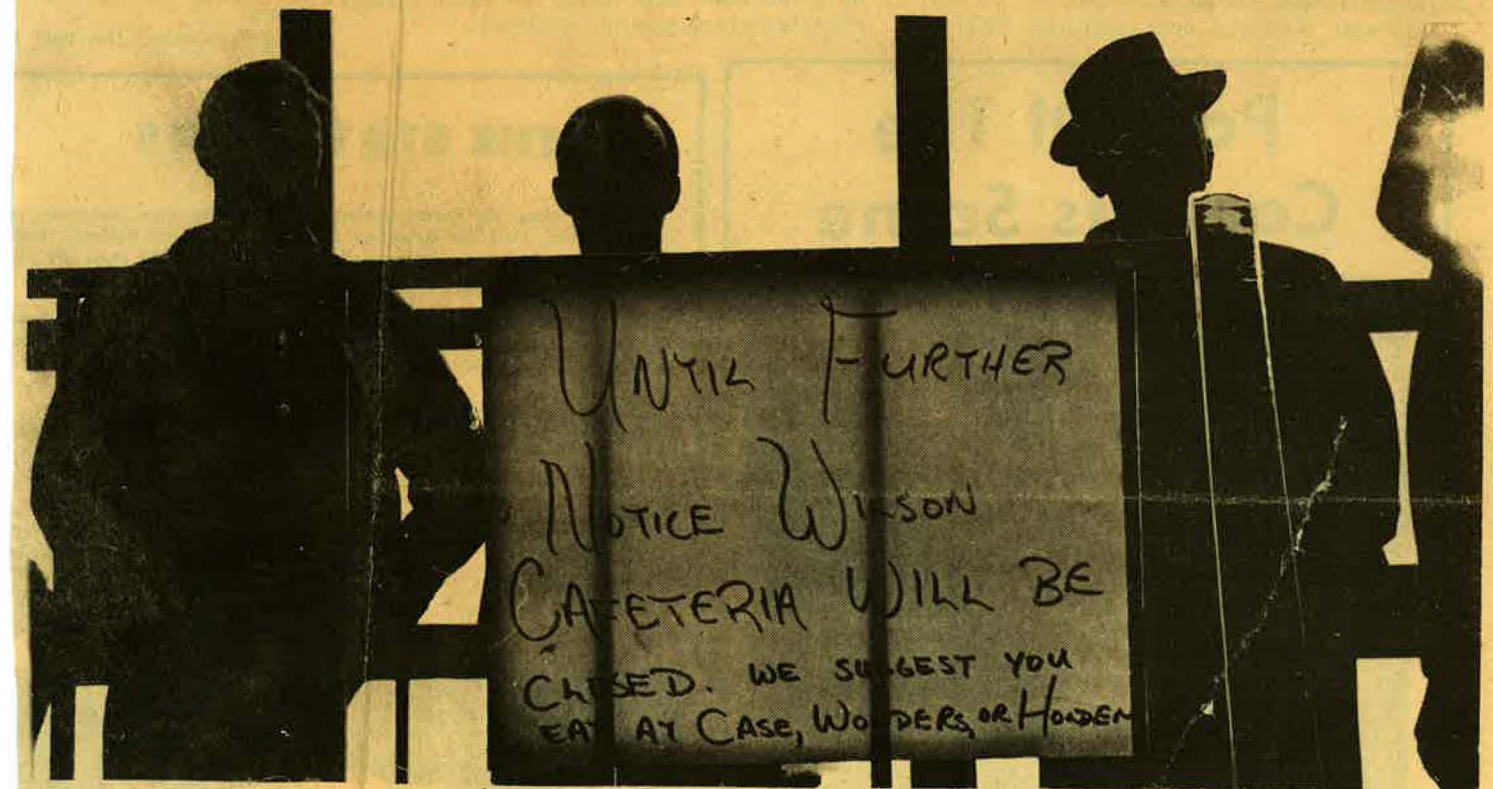
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### Minus meals

The closing of Wilson Hall cafeteria due to the BSA sit-in, caused a flood of students into other cafeterias in the South Complex--primarily to Holden. Acting President Adams (right) is silhouetted behind the closing notice.

State News photo by Lance Lagoni



# Reaction to sit-in<sup>5/9/69</sup> handling echoes through 'U', Capitol

By JERRY PANKHURST  
State News Staff Writer

Some legislators want to withhold MSU appropriations; some faculty members decry the actions of Acting President Walter Adams; other faculty members want to make their support for Adams explicit lest they be viewed as supportive of the critics; and the debate raged in the Academic Council.

All are responding to the handling of a protest by the Black Students' Alliance (BSA) which occupied the Wilson Hall cafeteria from April 28 to 30.

Stemming from alleged harassment of three black cafeteria employees, BSA held what it described as a teach-in. White residents ate in near-by South Complex halls.

Lyle A. Thorburn, manager of residence halls, stated that Adams was the main communications link between the administration and BSA. BSA had requested one person to act in such capacity, he said.

On the first night of the pro-

test, Adams and about 200 Wilson residents gathered in the Kiva to discuss the demonstration. When asked by Sam Riddle, BSA South Complex chairman, how many were in support of the blacks, about half raised their hand affirmatively.

Gary North, South Complex director for residence hall programs, stated: "there was little or no tension between black students and white students in Wilson Hall" during the demonstration.

Before the sit-in began, residence hall personnel had met with the three black employees who had walked off their jobs to protest the harassment. North said he had left the meeting with a feeling of optimism. Shortly after the meeting, he was informed of the cafeteria take-over.

North felt that communications between black and whites in Wilson was always open, although whites were not allowed in the cafeteria after approximately 6 p.m.

To many black students, the

Wilson sit-in was only one small incident in a much larger struggle.

"Our struggle is truly one for liberation," stated Riddle, "and when people say that some of our tactics are acts of desperation, I call it 'calculated desperation,' if it has to be called desperation."

Riddle feels that whites are not only facing black students, but the black community including black legislators and the black population of the area.

Riddle stated: "Talk among some faculty and others who lean toward 'fairness' seems to be that black students are lucky that Walter Adams is president, however, I feel it's the University that better be glad that Walter Adams is president."

"If completely repressive tactics had been employed by the University," he added, "it is quit possible that what has been referred to as a politically sophisticated organization B.W. (before Wilson) might well have shown its unsophisti-

cated side."

Riddle is not threatening, but is stating a fact that he feels is apparent.

He, along with many other blacks, does not like to see the black students lumped together with other radical groups, because their struggle is unique. It is not that they are opposed to other radical group.

Early plans called for a public hearing of the Wilson case on Thursday, May 1, and the occupation was to continue until the findings of the committee were revealed.

The hearing, however, was rescheduled late Monday evening for Tuesday afternoon at three p.m. It lasted until 6 p.m.

The adjudicating committee then went into private discussions which lasted a total of more than 13 and one half hours, breaking only between 3 and 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

When the decision of the committee was made public, BSA prepared to leave the cafeteria.

When BSA moved out of the cafeteria, the "Wilson incident" was ended, but its repercussions pervade the halls of the University and the Capitol in Lansing.

The result is a definite polarization of opinion in the academic community, with some chastising Adams, others commending him; with some local press sensationalizing the criticism; with legislators asking for further explanation from the administration in lieu of granting appropriations to the University and with faculty



# Letters and Calls About Concessions Stream Into MSU

By HELEN CLEGG  
State Journal Staff Writer

Pro and con letters and telephone calls bombarded the Michigan State University Board of Trustees and Acting President Walter Adams over the weekend about concessions made to black students who occupied the Wilson Hall cafeteria for nearly three days last week.

Two white supervisors of the cafeteria were charged with racism by the Black Students Alliance, tried in an open hearing and transferred at the recommendations of an eight-man board of review appointed by Adams.

Eight other recommendations were adopted, but another controversy centered on the one which took Miss Elaine Mishler, manager of Wilson Hall, and Joseph E. Trantham, food service manager, out of their jobs. They were transferred to nonsupervisory positions.

## MAKE CHARGES

In the university community, eight out of 12 members of an ad hoc Committee on Residence Halls, chaired by Dr. Anne C. Garrison, sent a letter to the Trustees Friday charging "a debacle of democratic procedures" and that "members of the Hearing Committee were constrained from making public statements in explanation of, and in defense of their conclusions."

Dr. Garrison said carbon copies of the letter were sent to Dr. Adams, to Provost Dr. Howard R. Neville, and the student newspaper, The State News.

Meanwhile, Mrs. John R. Fouts, 1167 Frye, East Lansing, said that a "group of concerned citizens of the greater East Lansing community" — acting as individuals — were conducting a telephone campaign, with followup letters, in support of Acting President Adams and his decision to put all nine recommendations of the hearing board into effect.

Mrs. Fouts said she did not believe the march by about 40 East Lansing businessmen to

Beaumont Tower Saturday protesting Adams' action reflects the attitude of the white community.

Mrs. John S. Duley, 1725 Parkvale, East Lansing, said the Greater Lansing Community Organization was also organizing a letter and telephone campaign in support of Adams' action.

Text of the letter of protest sent by the ad hoc Committee on Residence Halls follows:

"Members of the Board of Trustees:

"The following members of the ad hoc Committee on the Residence Halls are convinced that the recent debacle of democratic procedure and due process in the takeover and kangaroo court at Wilson Hall represents the sort of occasion that deserves our attention and comment. We note with dismay the following facts in the case:

—"No written charges were laid in advance against Miss (Elaine) Mishler and Mr. (Joseph E.) Trantham;

—"The rights of over 1,100 student residents were violated;

## PROCEDURE IGNORED

—"Regular grievance procedures of the AFL-CIO State, County, and Municipal Employees Union were ignored;

—"No opportunity was given for obtaining defense witnesses;

—"No opportunity was given for cross examination;

—"The Hearing Committee contained two members of the very group that conducted the sit-in;

—"The hearings were conducted in an atmosphere of carnival and coercion;

—"Relations between management by both white and black employees have been fearfully dislocated;

## NO TRANSCRIPTS

—"No recordings, written or taped, were allowed to be made in the hearings;

—"Members of the Hearing Committee were constrained from making public statements in explanation of, and in defense of their conclusions.

"We deplore lack of judgment, setting of an unfortunate precedent, and government by tantrum."

(Signed) Dr. Anne C. Garrison, Dr. Jay W. Artis, Dr. Richard E. Coelho, Margaret Korda, (Corning, N.Y., junior); Dr. Allan B. Mandelstamm, Dr. Herbert J. Oyer, Alan C. Stickney (Columbus, Ohio, senior) and Dr. Lewis K. Zerby.

## Clergy Invited

The eighth in a series of Grace Luncheons will be served Tuesday noon at Knights of Columbus Club, 5300 N. Grand River. All Greater Lansing clergymen are invited to be guests. There are no formal program or speakers.



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# 'U' attorney authorized to offer demoted employees rehearing

By **BARB PARNES**  
State News Staff Writer

Acting President Walter Adams authorized the University attorney Thursday to offer a new hearing to the two employees demoted as a result of the Wilson Hall cafeteria take-over last week.

Adams' actions were in compliance with the resolution passed Wednesday by the Academic Council recommending that Adams "ask the two employees, Miss Mishler and Mr. Trantham, if they desire a new hearing to be held."

"I welcome this constructive action taken by the Academic Council," Adams said.

He also said that in the future he would be guided by a desire not only "to grant people procedural due process but also substantive due process."

Duane Hildebrandt, attorney for the two employees, said that he was contacted Thursday by Leland J. Carr, the University attorney.

"Mr. Carr has asked us if we want a new hearing pursuant to paragraph one of the Academic Council resolution," he said.

Paragraph one of the Academic Council resolution states that "in the event the two individuals desire a rehearing, the Steering Committee constitute a special three-man committee to structure such a hearing."

The resolution also states that "the Steering Committee shall insure that all three members of the committee are acceptable to representatives of the University Administration and representatives of the two employees."

Hildebrandt was expected to confer with his clients Thursday evening to discuss the offer of a new hearing.

"I will be able to notify President Adams of our decision by Friday morning," he said. "I expect that we will accept the offer."

"I'm pleased that the University all the

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way from employees to faculty have reacted in this way to the events of last Tuesday," Hildebrandt said, referring to the recommendation for a new hearing.

Hildebrandt said that the next step would be to decide on the individuals to conduct the hearing. He said that in these deliberations he will insist on his right to present sworn testimony, to cross-examine witnesses, to present witnesses and to review university records relevant to the case.

Milton B. Dickerson, vice-president for student affairs, registered his approval of the Academic Council's action.

He said that if the individuals involved desire a new hearing, "they should have the opportunity."

Dickerson recommended that the individual in charge of a new hearing should be someone who has no direct interest in the controversy or is a representative of both sides.

He also recommended that the decision on closed or open hearings be left to the two employees.

(please turn to the back page)

7/7/69 Don Fox - In Miss Mishler - withdrew request for hearing - does not want one.



# Censure Of MSU Proposed

Concluded from Page One

sonnel office, the training and upgrading of black persons in residence hall employment, and the hiring and training of a black person for a management position in Wilson Hall.

Taking note of the administrative, professional and residence hall employees of which about 550 are employed at MSU—Killingsworth said the group needs more job security and more effective representation in governing of the university.

"My position is," said Killingsworth, "you don't punish the man until you have given him a fair hearing . . . I think the question is due process and not whether you approve or don't approve what was done."

## BREAKDOWN GIVEN

Before Killingsworth presented the resolution, Acting President Walter Adams — who presides at Council meetings — gave a chronological breakdown of events he was involved in following the Wilson sit-in.

During debate for and against the resolution, several amendments were offered.

And, at one point, a co-chairman of the hearing board, Dr. Milton B. Dickerson, vice president for student affairs — when called upon — said that "the decorum of the hearing was not correct" . . . that "it left a great deal to be desired."

Under a waiver of the rules, Council allowed Dr. Robert L. Green, associate professor of James Madison College and counseling and personnel service, as well as assistant director of the Center for Urban Affairs, to speak.

## COMMITTEE SOUGHT

Green traced his personal history at MSU and said that twice Ronald E. Lee, director of the Equal Opportunities Program and the Center for Urban Affairs, had asked the university for a committee of last resort for handling complaints of racism and discrimination. Green added that nothing had been done.



Speaking of the hearing, he said: "If the opinion of this body is that the hearing was unfair, the black faculty and the BSA would readily endorse another hearing, representing all segments of the university."

In such a case, he added, he would like all the parties involved to be brought in—including Norman Ellis, former manager of Wilson Halls, whom Miss Mishler replaced, and who is now working in New York.

Green said he would also like to see a campus-wide open hearing on racism and charges of racial discrimination in residence halls and cafeterias.

A public hearing, he added, "should be in terms of injustice vs. justice, not white vs. black."

#### JOURNAL SCORED

Green also scored The State Journal for "biased and unfair" reporting of the Wilson Hall incident. Specifically, he mentioned one article which he said he thought should have been run as an opinion column instead of in the news columns.

He also expressed concern that black cheerleaders be used and that black men be hired for grounds crews, and said no blacks had been admitted into the medical school.

Green added he believed that for a fair, open public hearing, it would be necessary for faculty members and administrators to be present who had blocked black employes from buying property in East Lansing. Green said he has bought a \$10,000 lot in Shaw Estates subdivision.

#### HANNAH HIT

He scored whites on campus for not standing up to Dr. John A. Hannah, recent president of MSU and asking him to make a simple statement that he favored equal opportunity in purchasing land.

In an emotion-laden voice, Dr. Green said he had been "very lonely" during his nine years at MSU and sometimes felt he was just "another nigger with a Ph.D."

After the Council decides what to do with Killingsworth's resolution this afternoon, it will go on to seven other items on its agenda which it did not have time for Tuesday.

of 60 per cent oxygen and 40 per cent nitrogen—closer to the earth surface atmosphere of 20 per cent oxygen and 80 per cent nitrogen.



[1969]

## Open Letter to the University Community

The East Wilson Hall General Council, after extensive consultation with the men of East Wilson, finds it essential to express the opinions of the majority of the residents concerning recent events in our hall. At this time, we make few definitive statements; we ask many questions. The hard fact is that neither we, nor the men we represent know what happened in Wilson Hall. The hearing of April 29 was, as we understood it, designed to determine what happened; the committee that made that determination has announced recommendations, but not findings. Conflicting reports are rampant. We wish to announce our position on those few things we know, and request answers about the many things we do not know.

1. The Council expresses its sincere appreciation of the efforts of President Adams and the other University administrators to resolve the situation in Wilson Hall. These men spent long hours in Wilson talking to students; their obviously sincere desire to understand the position of all parties did much to reduce tensions.
2. The Council wishes to thank the management personnel and residents of Case, Holden and Wonders Halls for their efficient and courteous service to Wilson residents. Monday night in particular, these people reacted remarkably well on very short notice. We apologize for the actions of a few Wilson students who took



advantage of the situation to eat the same meal at each of three halls.

3. The Council unanimously re-affirms its position of a year ago endorsing the philosophy of the Black Students Alliance and the specific indictments of University practices made at that time. Copies of this statement are available. We firmly support disciplinary action against, or termination of, University personnel who have engaged in demonstrably racist practices.

4. The Council remains unenlightened concerning the degree of racism in Wilson cafeteria. Many residents of East Wilson Hall have indicated a reluctance to accept the recommendations of the Committee as entirely valid, because they are unaware of the factual findings on which those recommendations are based. Mrs. Hatcher, Mrs. Shane, Mrs. Triplett and Mrs. Phelps, made certain statements; Mr. Trantham and Miss Wishler denied those statements. The vast majority of East Wilson residents have not worked in the kitchen and have no way to judge these statements except their predisposition to believe one side or the other. East Wilson residents looked to the Committee to pronounce judgment on these issues; the Committee chose only to make recommendations. The Committee's recommendations would be better accepted by East Wilson residents if the Committee made public the factual findings upon which its recommendations are based. In particular, we request of the Committee:

- a. Its findings on each allegation in the seven specific charges.
- b. Its general findings on the extent of racism in the Wilson Cafeteria.



5. The Council recognized the right of demonstration, and indeed, at times the necessity of demonstrations. However, we believe that as a general rule, demonstrations should be designed so as not to penalize third party bystanders, e.g. - students who were unaware of any racist practices by managers they did not hire and were not in position to observe at work. Nonetheless, extreme situations may sometimes justify somewhat more extreme solutions. Men in the hall are asking if this was such a situation. We recognize the deep frustration that can build up in the face of repeatedly unsuccessful efforts to eradicate racism in an institutions. We are aware of the fate of last spring's requests - while some progress has been made, several of those requests are sputtering in tokenism, or are buried in committee files. In short, while we are apposed in principle to such tactics as the seizure, we recognize the possibility that no other recourse was available. We must ask the Committee for its factual findings: To what extent were other channels utilized, exhausted, or demonstrably ineffective?

6. The Council relays a number of questions which East Wilson residents have raised concerning the hearing procedures. The hearing of April 29 involved on one hand the source of livelihood for several employees and their children; on the other, the careers of two administrators. A hearing of this significance should be conducted with the utmost concern for legitimacy and for fair play on both sides. East Wilson residents would more readily accept the validity of the Committee's recommendations if answers were available to the following questions:



To President Adams:

On what basis were the Committee members chosen?

To Co-Chairman Dickerson and Vance:

- a. Was the effectiveness of the hearing affected by the loose structure and informal atmosphere?
- b. Was the effectiveness of the hearing affected by the short notice to all participants?
- c. Why were other employees not called as witnesses to help illuminate the contradictions between the testimony of the two sides?

To the Committee:

- a. Was there information not brought out at the hearing that was considered in reaching the Committee's recommendations?
- b. Why were the views of Wilson residents not sought and considered by the Committee?

To Mr. Coleman:

Please elaborate publicly on the conclusions and statements in your testimony at the hearing.

7. The Council requests that Information Services and State News publicly clarify the lack of damages to the Wilson Cafeteria. It appears to the Council, upon inspection of the cafeteria and kitchen, that some of the media have seriously distorted the extent of damage.

8. The Council requests that Management inform the men of East Wilson of Miss Mishler's and Mr. Trantham's new assignments.



9. The Council expresses its concern over statements such as those made by Dr. Greene that, "Where racism is found in a component of this University, we will close that component down." Our concern is not with the sentiment expressed, but with its acceptance within the university community. We sincerely hope that each component of the University, especially each individual, will honestly evaluate its actions and, more important, its attitudes with regard to race relations.

We hope that the dialogue resulting from this particular situation will serve to open channels so that no individual need ever again consider it necessary to shut a component down.



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