

FACT SHEET ON INDICTMENTS OF U OF M STUDENTS

Last Spring: Afro-American Action Committee (AAAC) presented demands to U of M administration. The demands center around a) provision for 200 scholarships for Black high school students graduating in 1968, and b) setting up an educational curriculum that reflects the contributions of Black America to our culture, including an autonomous Black Studies Department.

Nine Months Later: AAAC felt that administration was dragging its feet in fulfilling agreements reached in the spring of 1968.

January 13: AAAC met with U of M officials seeking implementation of their demands, or indication by 1 pm the following day that action was being taken.

January 14: After initial discussion, AAAC members were not satisfied with response of U president Moos, claiming he was unresponsive or lacked understanding of their requests. At this point Black students occupied the offices of bursar, admissions, and records in Morrill Hall. That evening they were joined by several hundred supporters. Negotiations ended, unresolved, at 1 am.

January 15: Students remain in Morrill Hall and negotiations are resumed. Around 1 pm an agreement was reached and AAAC was satisfied that its position was understood and that the U of M would uphold its agreement. The sit-in ends.

January 16: Furniture and record files in Morrill Hall rearranged to original places and business resumed. According to participants, the damage resulted in the process of barricading doors to prevent entrance of people hostile to the sit-in, thus avoiding violent contact between the two groups.

January 20: University commission on Morrill Hall action established.

January 22: Hennepin County Attorney George Scott asks Moos to provide Grand Jury with information on Morrill Hall action.

January 23: Original estimate of damage in Morrill Hall reduced from \$11,000 to \$7,200. (This figure has since been reduced to \$6,000) Moos emphasizes that all basic records were intact.

March 3: Rosemary Freeman, Horace Huntley, Warren Tucker, Jane Doe, Richard Roe, Et Al are indicted by Hennepin County Grand Jury for Morrill Hall action. They are charged with criminal damage to property, inciting to riot, and unlawful assembly. These charges are punishable with six year prison terms.

March 4-9: Liberation Coalition is organized to oppose the indictments. The coalition includes fraternities, sororities, radicals, faculty members, religious groups, Minnesota Student Association, Student Unions, community groups and supporters from other campuses and high schools.

March 12: University commission issues its report stating that:

- a) sit-in resulted from discontent with university progress on a number of programs agreed upon in the spring of 1968 and university inaction on demands presented January 13.
- b) Damage during sit-in was caused primarily when students erected barricades in anticipation of police action and hostile acts by some onlookers, and that under the circumstances was "surprisingly moderate".
- c) After two months of investigation it could not determine which, if any, students caused the damage.

March 31: Beginning of LIBERATION WEEK at U of M. It will include a program of nationally known speakers on Black America, and action on the indictments.

April 3: MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION begins 8:00 am with rally at U of M, proceeds to Hennepin County Courthouse (where Rosemary, Horace, and Warren are being arraigned) to DEMAND THAT THE CHARGES BE DROPPED!

For more information, programs, speakers, petitions, buttons, etc. contact:
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