

PEACE TALKS STALLED

Having resolved every other issue of the 15 demands, the peace talks between TWLF and Hayakawa's "Select Committee" have bogged down around the questions of amnesty and Nathan Hare's retention. The Select Committee has maintained that the issue of Hare's retention has to be decided by the faculty Hiring, Retention and Tenure Committee in Hare's own department--although it was Hayakawa, not the HRT Committee who was personally responsible for firing Hare, effective next fall.

The most recent proposal of the Select Committee with respect to amnesty is as follows:

1. Persons found guilty of committing "violent acts" ("violence" defined as physical assault upon another person, bombings, and setting fires) will receive no more than a year's suspension from the college.
2. Persons found guilty of "institutional disruption" will be suspended for the rest of the semester.
3. Persons found guilty of non-violent acts will receive a written reprimand.

Further negotiations under favorable political conditions could improve the Committee's position considerably. But even its present position threatens to be undercut by President Hayakawa, to whom it is ultimately responsible, and by the possible continuation of disciplinary hearings by Edward Duerr's three-man SS squad which condemned Mason Wong two weeks ago. Hayakawa has insisted that Duerr's bully boys retain their authority over all college disciplinary matters, despite a faculty resolution to off them, which passed overwhelmingly at a full faculty meeting last Friday.

In the civil courts, meanwhile, there are indications that City Hall would like to see most charges dropped and the others reduced to misdemeanors. All it needs is an OK from Hayakawa, which Hayakawa has, to date, refused to give. The overall picture is beginning to emerge: while Hayakawa flits back and forth across the country, collecting fat lecture fees and building his reputation as the Savior of American Education, his Select Committee bends with the local political winds and peddles a soft line. But Hayakawa himself--when he is on campus--persists in his attempt to wipe out not only the strikers (through the disciplinary hearings), but also sympathetic campus organizations, programs and newspapers.

As a response to this sort of double dealing, and as a way of forcing Hayakawa to stop playing games, a mass demonstration has been planned for Thursday, beginning in the Commons, at noon. Its connection with the negotiations is crucial: our greatest strength in the negotiations is the administration's knowledge that we can blow the lid off again if we have to. The administration's greatest hope is that it can take advantage of the muzzle on free speech, press and assembly to push through stiff disciplinary proceedings unopposed, with the bulk of the campus in a state of total ignorance, and the break the strike completely. WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.



OPEN PROCESS

KANGAROO COURT ESCAPES SCRUTINY

Less than two weeks ago, Mason Wong, head of the Intercollegiate Chinese for Social Action and member of the TWLF Central Committee, was summoned before a three-man faculty committee appointed to hear "disciplinary cases" arising out of the strike. Wong was arrested in the Big Bust on January 23 and has a trial pending in the civil courts sometime in April. The committee members, who acted as both prosecutor and judge, were representatives of three of the most reactionary departments in the school: PE, Management and Design & Industry.

The hearing was not open to the public. It commenced with the committee informing Wong that he would be promptly suspended if he failed to cooperate with them in any way. Then the "evidence" against him was presented: in full, it consisted of a police report on the Big Bust and a list of those arrested, on which Wong's name appeared. Wong could offer no evidence in his defense, since the whole hearing could be used against him at his court trial. His attorney (he was permitted one) argued that the prosecution had not really presented a case, since there was no evidence that Wong had deliberately violated the law, that his arrest had been proper, that he was, in fact, "guilty" of anything. The committee did not dispute this, simply stating that "formal rules of evidence do not apply" at its hearings and it was "not necessary to prove Wong's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt." With that, they retired to deliberate, returning a few minutes later with a verdict of guilty. Wong was suspended from the college for six months and given two years' probation.

The entire process took less than an hour.

What is truly frightening about this obscene little episode is that virtually no one on campus knew it was happening. Two days before Wong's hearing, President Hayakawa suspended Open Process and the Daily Gater, both of which had already been crippled by the AS fund freeze. The "state of emergency" prohibits any kind of outdoor public meetings. Police occupation of the campus makes leafleting risky and sign-posting damn near impossible; posted signs hostile to the administration are apt to disappear within a matter of minutes. Even the graffiti on the library fence was painted over. "Open" for regular classroom activity, the campus has become effectively closed to everything else. The only regular source of information on the campus is the Phoenix, which comes out weekly, and the CAE's throwaways.

Were it not for the Phoenix, in fact, the campus would not have learned of Mason Wong's case at all. Though the press was barred from the hearing, a Phoenix staff writer happened to be admitted as a possible defense witness. We were privileged to read his eyewitness account of the hearing. A WEEK AFTER IT HAPPENED.

Several days ago a faculty member asked a cop who was not wearing his badge if he could see his badge number. He was promptly busted for resisting arrest. Were he a student, he would have been liable for the same kind of "due process" that was meted out to Mason Wong.

We are not under any illusions as to why all channels of communication between students on this campus have been shut off. Hayakawa claimed that the Gater and Open Process were suspended because there was "no functioning Board of Publications" to supervise them, a contention which is debatable at best. Actually we don't think he's all that interested in the BOP. What should concern him---and us---is that at the moment when negotiations over the resolution of the 15 demands are at a critical phase, when the only issue left to be resolved---amnesty---can literally make things or break them, nobody knows what the hell is going on and as of now there is no way of finding out. Worse, suspension hearings are scheduled to resume THIS THURSDAY. If the administration is allowed to bounce the strike leadership out of school, as it did with Mason Wong, and the rest of the strike is decimated in the civil courts, Hayakawa will be compelled to concede NOTHING. Nothing will prevent the administration from going on what it has already agreed to; with all voices of opposition silenced, nothing will prevent it from imposing more and more arbitrary controls over what is said and done on this campus.

OPEN PROCESS has lost its funds and, legally, its right to publish. But the silence must be broken now if it is to be broken at all. Accordingly, OPEN PROCESS is hereby defying the suspension order. We will be publishing on a daily basis, with whatever resources are available, for as long as necessary. We'll need help in the way of time, money, contributions, suggestions, and whatever else you can think of. Be at the rally in the Commons at noon Thursday, and come by our office in Hut C when you can.