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THE NEWSPAPER is an institution developed by modern civilization to present the news of the day, to foster commerce and industry, to inform and lead public opinion, and to furnish that check upon government which no constitution has ever been able to provide.

—THE TRIBUNE CREDO

A Sad Day for Northwestern

Alumni and friends of Northwestern university must be profoundly dismayed by the university's response to the demands of black power insurgents who seized and held the old administration building for 36 hours. At the same time a handful of white student sympathizers took possession of the dean's office and were unmoled in their assertion of squatters' rights.

The university administration's capitulation is as complete and humiliating as any event since Henry IV crawled on his knees in sackcloth to Canossa and there made penance and the act of submission to Gregory VII.

This was an invasion, pure and simple, by blacks of the premises of a private institution—in no way different from the occupation of the home of a private citizen.

A courageous university administration, with a fit sense of values, would have ended this insurrection within the first 15 minutes and driven out the interlopers. It would have said:

"This is a private university. You are here on sufferance. You will abide by the regulations which all other students are required to honor. Your color gives you no sanction and no license. If you don't like it here, you are at liberty to go elsewhere. Now, clear out, or the force necessary to throw you out will be mustered at once."

The students would then have received a remission of fees and would have been expelled and sent home.

This would have been within the administration's proper sphere of action. The black power advocates had no more warrant for trespass and seizure than had the Rev. Martin Luther King when he seized a west side apartment building and proclaimed himself conservator for its owner.

But the university officials lacked the courage of any convictions. They temporized and, in so doing, condoned the lawlessness with which they were challenged. They made common cause with the invaders in their stand that laws do not govern society and are made only to be flouted and ignored.

The university has announced that no punishment under law or thru university disciplinary action will be sought for the offenders. If a student were caught stealing an examination paper or cribbing on an examination, he would be expelled or placed on probation, but, in Northwestern's new scale of values, no penalty is to attend students who appropriate the business office, where all university records are kept, or the office of the dean, from which all student affairs are directed.

Forgotten in the disgraceful articles of unconditional surrender signed by university officials was the fact that friends and alumni who had given countless millions of dollars to Northwestern were not contributing to a Tuskegee or a Howard university and had never conceived that their gifts were directed toward creating a racial enclave and calling it Northwestern university.

In other days, the dean of a university was considered a man of stature and learning. At Northwestern we had the spectacle of the dean running back and forth between his own captive office and the captive business office where the black occupation garrison condescended periodically to hear his professions of penitence, while mattresses, blankets, and food were passed in thru the windows.

The atmosphere was more like that of an outbreak in a penitentiary than of a university dedicated to intellectual freedom and the formation of individual character.

All the university's spokesmen had to tell the rebels was that when they got out of the building they could state their supposed grievances to a committee.

Instead, the administration put its witness to an incredible document—an abject confession that Northwestern is, and has always been, the embodiment of the

ins of "white racism," that invidious term coined gratuitously by the Kerner commission and eagerly accepted by every masochistic breast-beater in the white "liberal" community.

Not content with this fact of self-humiliation, the university then extended its own professed guilt to all other institutions of higher learning in America and to the whole of American society. The soft impeachment will have few takers among the white community.

The university's frail apology that it really gave away very little beyond what justice demanded is absurd on its face. It has yielded to an infinitesimal minority—no more than 1/65th of the student body—and has made incredible concessions in order to buy peace. It is only buying more trouble and more insurrection in the time to come, for the course of blackmail and appeasement always proceeds progressively.

Moreover, it has bent the knee to an element that does not ask equal consideration, but special treatment. The Negro militants were not seeking integration or fraternal equality, but their own form of apartheid. They demanded—and got—racial separatism in campus life, and the very nature of their demands showed their hatred of whites.

Especially brazen was the demand of the rebels—granted without quibble by the administration—for special tuition supplements for blacks at the expense of poor white students, equally deserving of scholarship aid. The effect is to create a special class, based on color alone, and this represents discrimination in its ultimate form.

Now that this revolt has succeeded, what may we expect next? Are all the members of the Northwestern football squad going to mount a protest strike until they are assured they will be given straight A grades? Every student, and every man who lives, labors under some degree of insufficiency of talent, or energy, or accomplishment. In the name of absolute justice, are we all to be leveled off so that no man possesses any superiorities by reason of endowment or attainment over any other? These are among the implications of Northwestern's surrender.

The university administration has taken the easy way out. It has abandoned law and principle when it had the chance to demonstrate integrity and character. It has thought more of the value of property than of the verities which it was presumed to serve. The black insurgents had as their hostage the computer, worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, which processes the university's financial records. They said it would be safe unless they were evicted. Their implied threat of sabotage paralyzed the administration.

So, when this precious instrument came thru unscathed, the administration was lavish in its praise of the black power faction for its sense of "order" and "responsibility." Property was not damaged, and clean-up squads policed the occupied premises. The wreck of the university's reputation is complete but the job was done cleanly. What a consolation!

When universities all over the country are collapsing before the campus radicals, Northwestern had the opportunity to show that the values of common sense and probity are eternal in its life. It has grievously damaged its hope of public confidence for the future.

All its alumni and friends must feel sick today. The university has made needless difficulties for itself in commanding continuing loyalty and support. It will learn the validity of the eternal question: "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"