

17 March 69

This afternoon seven hundred students and faculty attended a rally sponsored by the ad Hoc Committee to end Political suppression, occupied the administration lobby in the SS Building at Queens College.

We are protesting political suppression on campus-3 SDS leaders were suspended for contempt of court when 150 students insisting on an open trial, refused to leave the courtroom-the 3 were being tried for participating in an anti-recruitment demonstration. The administration and some members of student court ruled that the 3 defendants were responsible for the actions of the 150 observers. This is patently absurd.

There was no due process at the trial and the proceeding constitute a travesty of justice. Moreover, the 3 students were tried for the alleged violation of the law which students had no voice in creating, a law handed down by the administration. Although the Student Association has dropped charges Dean Pierson, who initiated the action, had refused to reinstate the students.

Political suppression is not limited to students. Dr. Sheila Delany of the English Department was not rehired, although she has published articles and is a popular teacher. The reason she was given was "personality". Mrs. Delany was involved last year in a movement for departmental reform. We feel that in this case dismissal has been used as a means of political retaliation, and that it represents a dangerous infringement on academic freedom..

Another dimension to the violation of academic freedom is the Max-Kahn report, which requires absolute secrecy both in reports on teaching observations and in giving real reasons for dismissal. The report thus creates an atmosphere of fear which no university can tolerate. It facilitates and even encourages dismissal of faculty who have progressive political views.

Therefore we demand: 1. Reinstate the 3 suspended students.

2. Drop all charges against them.

3. Rehire Sheila Delany.

4. Revoke the Max-Kahn secrecy report as official Queens College policy, and urge its revocation as CUNY policy.

We students and faculty plan to occupy the administrative section of the SS Building and Dean Pierson's office until these demands are met.