

## WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

The testimonial dinner for the President on March 29 serves only one purpose: the personal aggrandisement of Edgar Draper.

If Draper had the genuine confidence of faculty, staff and students, he would not have to make a public display of their support. He is exacting tribute as a political show of strength for the BHE and governmental officials. He has everything to gain by such a dinner; we have nothing to gain.

Success for the testimonial hinges on whether Draper can fill 800 seats in a grand ballroom at the Hotel Americana. Since the promotional activities of the dinner's organizers smack more of desperation than confidence, the event seems to be in real trouble. Look at what's happening:

- Item: Thousands of dollars of invitations and promotional mailings have been sent at public expense through the MCC mailroom. In some instances, mid-term exams submitted well in advance have not been run off, because the mailroom was too busy duplicating and distributing material for the dinner.
- Item: Invitations have been sent to students. There is something obscene about asking \$20 a plate for a dinner when financial aid is being cut and 88% of MCC's students come from families earning less than \$7500 a year.
- Item: The minutes of the President's Testimonial Dinner Committee stated that tickets would be solicited from contractors who sell goods and services to the College.
- Item: Every faculty member at Staten Island Community College and Medgar Evers College has received an invitation. The minutes of the Dinner Committee stated that all of City University's faculty would be invited. We are investigating whether this was done, and at whose expense!
- Item: Promotional literature claims sponsorship by "faculty and staff of MCC". No vote, however, was ever taken to sponsor the dinner. Draper evidently does not want a real vote testing confidence in his administration.

It is clear from the above that, lacking enough people from MCC itself to "honor" the President, the dinner's promoters are casting farther and farther afield in their search for occupants of the 800 seats.

The dinner is an attempt to shakedown MCC faculty, staff and students. By boycotting the dinner, we say no to Draper and the tactics his administration is using to keep faculty in line. By boycotting the dinner, we are telling Draper that we want an administration based on respect, not intimidation.

Together, we are stronger than any administration. Boycott the dinner. Join the informational picket line in front of the Americana on March 29.

ad hoc Committee of the BMCC-PSC  
to Boycott the President's Dinner