



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48903

GEORGE ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

August 9, 1965

Dr. Arnold Kaufman
2218 Angell Hall
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dr. Kaufman:

Your article, "Teach-ins: A New Force for the Times", in NATION of June 21st has been called to my attention. I admire you for the depth of your conviction that you have performed an essential service for democracy; but, I would have wished you to be more objective in your presentation. Your phrase, "But presumably in the world of Governors and auto executives, business is always business, and sacred", is a neat stereotype, but obviously removed from the facts of the case. It certainly does not describe accurately my response to your original teacher strike proposal.

My reaction, that of the legislature, and your colleagues, too, should have made it crystal clear that our concern was for the majority of students, faculty, and administration at the University who did not choose to participate in your demonstration. The strike would have forced a cancellation of classes, whether this was desired or not, to be made up later if schedules could be rearranged. Certainly you felt your cause to be important enough to warrant "a departure from work as usual". And you anticipated an audience of 700 from a student body of 30,000. Following your example, it would be necessary for the whole University to defer to any 2% of the University community which felt it had a cause important enough to bring the tight schedule to a standstill.

It seems clear to me that your teach-in as finally conducted was far more consistent with the democratic society you purport to defend. Provisions have always existed for any group to hold public meetings to present its views. That the involvement in these meetings should be voluntary is to me a basic presumption.

You also think it would be interesting to have me debate students who approve of faculty commitment. It would be a disappointment to you, I am sure. I have no quarrel with any person's commitment to any

