

2. Remove ROTC from the campus--or urge the State Board to do so.

We have just emerged from a traumatic, divisive, and inflammatory debate on ROTC. I hope that we shall not be subjected to another. I agree, however, that we should attempt to re-negotiate the contracts to eliminate or reduce the features to which many faculty members objected so strongly. The faculty was at the point of proceeding to this business when it was interrupted by the polarizing debate on elimination of ROTC. George Benson, former president of Claremont Men's College, serving as chairman of a national committee to study ROTC recently recommended extensive changes in the contractual relations between the Universities and the Department of Defense. Many weeks ago I sent a copy of the report to the Sprague Committee--which in turn recommended to the faculty the creation of a standing committee to review contracts and assist in negotiating changes. Faculties at the Universities of Michigan, California, and Minnesota have all recently reviewed contracts, have recommended changes, and Michigan is well advanced in negotiations with the Department of Defense. We ought to end debate over symbolical issues and proceed to the task of making changes that are possible and defensible.

If we once again plunge into debate over the question of ROTC on campus, or if we engage the faculty in arguments over substantive changes in the contract, we shall exhaust the academic year in debate and acrimony and lessen the likelihood that we can effect any changes for the next academic year.

Suppose that a notice for reconsideration of the ROTC resolution were introduced. As a substantive motion it could not be voted upon until the June meeting of the faculty. It would then go to the Board of Higher Education. When the faculty recommended that ROTC be changed from required to voluntary status, the

Board did not act favorably for two years. Is it likely that the Board would act with more dispatch in favor of a more radical proposal? Particularly if the faculty were very nearly evenly divided? The probably result would be rejection or delay and consequent frustration and bitterness on the campus.

But it is possible to get action. The faculty has now legislated a committee to make recommendations on the contract. The Sprague resolution would create a committee (presumably supplanting the ad hoc one which has not yet been activated) charged with the immediate task of recommending changes in the contract and the long-range responsibility of recommending changes that would give the ROTC program a better academic and University status.

I favor change. And I believe that we ought to end division^{ve} debate and proceed to do what is possible to effect change.