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THE LOYOLA BRIEF

LOYOLA SCHOOL OF LAW - LOS ANGELES

BULLETIN . MARCH 1, 1970

STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR DISRUPTING STUDENT BAR MEETING SUNDAY

Seven students were placed under arrest for disrupting the special Student Bar Association meeting held on Sunday, March 1, in the Moot Court Room. All were out on bail within a couple of hours after being booked for violation of Section 403 of the Penal Code. Those arrested were: Sheila Dale, Ted Eagans, Sandy Green, Don Jones, Alvarez LeCesne, Belvin Smith, and Johnne Tennell. All except Smith and Dale are first year students.

Many students were in attendance when the SBA meeting convened as scheduled at 1 p.m. Tennell, who is the representative of the Black American Law Students Association, assumed the floor without recognition to renew the Balsa request for funds. He was ruled out of order by SBA president Mason Rose. Rose then asked the Board to vote on whether the Balsa matter should be considered. There was a vote of 14-7 against considering the Balsa request. Tennell was told he was out of order and did not have the floor, but he continued to speak and did not sit down. Rose announced that if Tennell did not desist he would be arrested, and began reading aloud from Penal Code Section 403, which prohibits the disruption of non-religious, non-political meetings of duly constituted bodies. Joined by some supporters, Tennell continued his tactics as the Board attempted to go on to other business. Within about five minutes, some eight or ten uniformed police entered the room and Rose again warned Tennell that he would be arrested. He continued to speak, Rose asked again for his arrest, and when he refused to be then began addressing the room, was ruled out of order, and when he refused to be seated was also arrested. The same procedure followed with the others, who were arrested after they took the floor, were asked to be seated, and were warned.

Despite the unusual nature of the meeting, the atmosphere was not as heated as it has been on other occasions. There were a few cries of "pig" and "fascist" and "racist", but there was little real heat generated. Although no faculty members were noted, Dean Cavanaugh was present and walked out with a group who left after Tennell's arrest, apparently in protest.

The events were not unexpected by those participating. At a meeting on February 18, the SBA passed a motion to support a Balsa pamphlet on landlord-tenant law, but a motion to appropriate \$1200 failed. Since then, Rose has attempted to move to other business, but Tennell has taken the position that no other business can be heard until funds have been appropriated. Prior to the 18th, at least three meetings were adjourned prematurely when the Balsa representative interrupted the proceedings. Finally, at the meeting on February 25, Rose told Tennell he would call the police if Tennell continued to disregard parliamentary procedure and the rulings of the chair. Rose did call the police, but no arrest were made that day.

After Rose returned to the meeting Sunday from signing complaints against those arrested, Ken Loveman asked for a resolution from the Board requesting that the charges be dismissed. Rose explained that he had not taken the action lightly and that he had tried on several occasions to reach an understanding with Balsa and the Chicano students, including a two-hour session with Tennell in Dean O'Brien's office after the meeting of February 25. Rose stated that his conditions for dismissal were that the organizations and individuals agree in writing to follow regular SBA procedures and rulings of the chair and that they release Rose from any civil liability arising out of the citizen's arrests. A resolution to this effect was passed and also a resolution condemning Dean O'Brien's failure to take administrative action that might have made the police arrests unnecessary.

---JOANNE EGAN