Aaron Tovish pleads case, feels aggrieved.

(The following is a paraphrased transcript of the proceedings. See related story on page 1, "Proceedings continue for ROTC occup.

By Paul Schindler

Tovish said, "I feel aggrieved right now," [under Disciplinary Committee procedure, MIT is not an "aggrieved party" before he began an explanation of his case as well as both at the time of the hearings, and at the time of the occupation.

He was interrupted by Myers, who asked if he wanted to make those points now, since procedures indicated that they were more properly part of a later portion of the hearing. Tovish replied by asking if he could be sure that the committee cared, "about most, about people in Vietnam, and about my friends on the boat." Myers stated that "each student involved will have a full chance to present his defense," and added a plea for both sides of the dispute, "we are concerned about, but I disapprove of your methods."

[Because a transcript is lacking, some following quotes may be partially paraphrased. No material is quoted which is not very close to the original. -Editor] Alberty claimed that he had seen Tovish advocate expulsion and occupancy, but had not seen him in the actual office, only in the corridor area that was barricaded.

Lisa Tafts of the Committee asked Alberty when it was right to use the corridor, and when it was wrong. Alberty responded that it was wrong when they threw other people out, but was interrupted by Tovish, who told Alberty he didn't think the line of questions was helping. Myers then asked, "Do you think the student members of this committee are here to help you? None of us are here to help your case, we are here to hear it."

Mme painted Tovish out as a key speaker at a Kresge rally prior to the occupation, and testified that Tovish struck Culliton twice, and was a principal speaker at the ROTC site. Mme was asked by Tovish if he understood the motivation for the Kresge speech; Mme replied, "I think I understand why, Short of your specific action, I share your general concern over Vietnam."

Mike defined a leadership role as based on "force, duration, elegance, and urge to disrupt," and also admitted that he had placed Tovish in the office by definition, because he had known him to be there, had not seen him in the corridor, and had thus assumed him to be in the offices.

Wadleigh, noting that "I am expediting this hearing," submitted others not, asked if the testimony of Kenneth Browning and Richard Sorenson could be forgone, since they would only provide corroboration. It was decided that James Culliton, assistant to the Vice-President for Administration and Personnel, would be the last witness for the aggrieved. Culliton primarily testified about the agitated member of the crowd. He recalled them as being without provocation.

Tovish began a line of questions as a basis of needing that he was trying either to get action or argument." Mike mentioned the "cop who fired the gun" during his questions) or to get back to the same agitated student. It was established that the blame were not intended to injure Culliton.

Tovish then began his defense, which consisted solely of his personal remarks. He called no witnesses, and was interrupted only once when asked to conclude.

"The outcome of bombs dropped on Vietnam is greater than that dropped in all previous wars," Tovish began. He asked the committee to consider the bombs in human terms, as the instruments for the destruction of human life. "The bombs are power." He asked that he be considered of this destruction a bit, and decided that something had to be done. "It's hard to fight a strong, stable system, and not make many changes," said Tovish.

In speaking of last spring, Tovish said "I believed at that time that we needed a revolution in this country. I still think so. I don't know when it will come."

Tovish, his voice cracking with emotion, continued to catalogue the saving up in many quarters to the strike, until the decision made him Haiphong, when many felt that the world was in balance. He insisted that there was "lots of evidence available" on MIT war complicity, and that he wouldn't bring it in if anyone wanted him to.

Tovish said that he did not like to make long speeches, such as the one he was in the midst of, adding that his speaking skill was a natural result of his six years in "semi-radical politics." He said that the administration was doing something "disingenuous if you become eloquent... we'll sing you out. We'll save you. Stay cool and you're safe." He also said that there had been "bad mistakes" taken by the administration, but "we're not being, just corrected." Myers, uncertain, asked if this had gone before was a concluding statement. When Tovish replied in the affirmative, he was asked why he needed a delay if he had no witnesses. The change in tactics, Tovish reported, "indicates the changes I have been through."

When Tovish asked the committee to free themselves from the role of the exploiter, Myers noted that "we're not on trial here."

Tovish was asked by a committee member if he would re- tense from demonstrating and "respect the rights of others." He replied that he got involved again, there would be "hundreds involved, not just me." He also noted that he withdrew from MIT just before he was expelled, and that at that time he was "dissatisfied."

Tovish's final statement was "I'm learning beautiful things about the earth and the universe here. This committee hearing is so strange..."

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