

Bennington College
Bennington, Vermont
July 26, 1943

A Meeting of the Central Committee was held on Saturday, July 24, 1943.

Those present were Mrs. Garrett, Ann Strieby and Carol Greenfeld.

Josephine Swift, Dorea Higgins, and Carol Goldschmidt.

Several complaints were made to the Central Committee concerning a disturbance in the dining room Thursday evening, July 22. It was reported that Josephine Swift, apparently under the influence of liquor, was throwing dishes on the floor purposely. Carol Goldschmidt stood by laughing, and eventually started to pick up the broken pieces. When somebody told her not to pick them up, as she had no shoes on and might cut her feet, she got very angry and began an argument. At the same time that this was going on, Dorea Higgins came into the dining room with a scotch bottle from which she was drinking.

The girls were asked to meet with the Central Committee to discuss, and if possible, explain their behaviour. They all said that the complaints brought against them were true. Dorea said that although she did come through the dining room with a scotch bottle, it was only filled with water. Dorea and Josephine said they had both come from a party where they had been drinking, but that they didn't feel it was merely the influence of liquor that had prompted them to act as they did. They both felt "good" and wanted to have some fun. Josephine said that she had always wanted to throw some plates on the floor, and she just did at that time. Carol said that she had not been drinking, and hadn't even been to the party. She said she had laughed out of nervous reaction, and said that the story of her quarreling, over picking up the plates, had had been exaggerated. Both Josephine and Dorea said they were sorry and were sure that it would never happen again. Carol argued with Mrs. Garrett concerning the seriousness of the situation, as she felt that people had a right to express their emotions occasionally, and that the incident had harmed no one. Mrs. Garrett pointed out to her that students had to have a responsibility, not only to themselves, but to the whole community and that that responsibility had been neglected in this particular instance.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Greenfeld

Carol Greenfeld
Secretary, Central Committee