Fraternity Houses or Not?

By DICK WICH

ALFRED — The Greeks have a word for it . . . malama! It means fight.

Three fraternities at Alfred Agriculture and Technical Institute — Psi Delta Omega, Kappa Sigma Epsilon and Gamma Theta Gamma — have been told by the administration that their houses no longer will be recognized.

This, say the Greek fraternities, means the end to the effectiveness of their organizations — that once their houses are lost so is their identity. They intend to fight the edict.

This doesn’t have to be, says the administration. The fraternities can live in college-owned or college-controlled dorms and still be effective, the administration argues.

THE PROBLEM erupted Jan. 6 when the administration said it will not recognize fraternity housing as of next June 14.

Administrators claim the housing facilities of the fraternities are substandard and need repairs.

The college is in the process of erecting four dormitories on state land and wishes to have them filled. It was reported that the state dorms need to be filled to 95 per cent capacity a year in order to be self-sustaining.

Moving fraternity members into these dorms would make that possible, observed one fraternity member.

As Tech President Walter C. Temple at a recent news conference gave this explanation of the situation:

“The plans for abolishing the two dormitories didn’t just occur. It has been occurring for the last two or three years. Because the state is building dorms, they believe that students must be housed in them if there is room.”

About two years ago when the plans for dorms were being made, the frats were consulted about the matter.

“IT WAS decided that they would make no plans until something of a definite nature was made known. Psi D would either have to move, fix up or rebuild since its house is in such bad condition.”

“TG must move since it is

Alfred Tech Officials, ‘Greeks’ Disagree

Psi Delta Omega house (above) is one of three fraternity houses in center of current controversy at Alfred Agriculture and Technical Institute.

On the Line

maids. This isn’t true in frat houses. We have our own work parties . . . things each member has to do each day. These things teach you the value of life, to depend on yourself and your brother.”

Morris said the frats have to abide by school social codes but the fraternity social code is even more strict. “If someone acts up at a party, and he is a brother, it’s the fraternity’s responsibility to bring the student in line. At an independent party,” he said, “it’s the job of a chaperon.”

ANOTHER REASON the frats don’t want to live in state housing is because of their “imperial” qualities, he said.

“Our house may be beat-up and run-down but I would rather have one that looks like a real house than have to live in a dorm,” he said.

Morris said the campus competition created by fraternities probably would be lost if they lose their housing.

Recently 100 students protested the frat house ban by donating blood. At that time the demonstration leader, Dick Masters, said, “From fraternity participation in the Fall Festival, house sign contest, the Christmas sign contest and the lawn sculpture contest of Winter Weekend, Tech is the recipient of much good publicity.”

“It was solely fraternity participation in a variety show last year which raised a good deal of money for the Campus Chest drive, certainly a worthy cause by any measure.

Throughout the school year, whenever students are needed, it is the fraternities which are solicited first, and cooperate most willingly.”

A big question the frats want answered is:

“We pay our tuition. We also pay to stay in fraternity houses. We are saving the state money. Why are they bothering us?”

Several suggestions have been offered on how the frats could operate without their houses. Morris said all have been rejected.

A solution has not been reached. But the fraternities are trying to find one and hope they come up with a satisfactory answer before next June 14.
in the path of the new campus construction. The best thing, it was felt, would be not to recognize the frats or sororities after June 14, 1964. The present decision is principally due to the housing condition. Secondarily, it was felt that this decision was valid, since the frats and sororities represent a minority of the students on campus.”

Hinkle said eating facilities also are a major factor in the decision. Fraternity houses would be hard to operate since their major source of income is provided by their dining facilities.

The three fraternities have a total membership of about 80 students. However, a petition circulated by the Student Senate opposing the administration's decision carries about 800 names—most of those singing being independents belonging to no fraternity or sorority.

There are 1,391 students at the institute.

THE FRATERNITIES offer many reasons for keeping their houses.

Speaking for them was Richard Morris, president of Psi D.

“There is a lot of value obtained from fraternity living,” said Morris. “You develop common bonds as a fraternity brother. It might sound foolish but it’s something you believe in... the code of brotherhood.

“In a dorm,” he said, “you lose your identity because of the closeness with others. You have a privacy in your own house.

“We police ourselves. You get a sense of pride in ownership. In a dorm you have clean-