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ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
OF CANADA

MONTREAL CENTRE

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

MONTREAL, May 25, 1967.

Mr. David Levy,
618 Upper Belmont Ave,
Westmount.

Dear Mr. Levy:

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Montreal Centre of the R.A.S.C. I was delegated by a unanimous decision to write to you. Within the past few months, a number of incidents have occurred in which apparently you have had differences of opinion with various officers of the executive. The responsibilities and powers of these officers are clearly defined in the constitution and are designed to facilitate the work of the Centre. Normally, the spirit of cooperation for the good of the Centre is expected to prevail. If this fails, the officers are entitled to use their judgment in order to deal with specific cases.

The principle is quite simple. An officer is accountable to the Board of Directors for his actions, or for his lack of action. The authority to act for the interest of the Centre is delegated to those who bear the burden of responsibility; e.g. the Director of Observations is responsible for the observational program and may appoint or dismiss assistants, even though the power to dismiss is not mentioned in the Constitution.

Also, the Director of the Observatory is responsible for the Observatory and for the equipment which belongs to the Centre. Concomitant with this, he or his representative has the authority to request a member to leave the Observatory for reasons considered to be sufficient. Such action on his part does not constitute a denial of the rights of membership as guaranteed by the Constitution. The meetings on Wednesdays and Saturdays of each week are informal meetings. Participation in these meetings is based on the traditional cooperation and acceptable conduct which the Centre has the right to expect from its members.

In almost any group of people, one is apt to encounter differences of opinion. In this event there are acceptable and unacceptable ways of registering a contrary opinion. Generally speaking, a descent to the level of derogatory personal remarks is not likely to be rewarding. Once adopted, it is very difficult

to return from such a position. If personal communication fails, a better way to register dissent would be to write a quiet letter to the Secretary. In due course, such a letter would be read and discussed by the Board of Directors, and you would receive a written reply. This procedure requires patience, but it is acceptable and traditional.

At present, the Board of Directors contemplates no further action, other than to review the situation at a later date. Of course, another meeting can be held for sufficient cause. In the meantime, I suggest that you should cooperate, in every way possible, with the officers of the Centre. In particular, it would be considered to be a gesture of good will on your part if you were to return, by the next mail, those reports of the Comet and Nova Section which you still retain. Any reports which you may receive subsequently should also be returned promptly.

Yours sincerely,

T. F. Morris

T.F. Morris,
114 Dobie Ave,
Montreal 16.