

firing line

"Foul!" but when he had the backing of the administration for the proposal that established E 346K, he himself falsely claimed overwhelming support by faculty and students. In fact, on December 7, 1981, the Faculty Senate voted 4 to 1 against Kinneavy's proposal; the student members of the University Council unanimously supported the notably different program which faculty and students had really voted for; and at that point Kinneavy joined assorted deans in indignant denunciation of the student-supported program. All these things are matters of the public record which the combatants seem united in disregarding.

Professor Sutherland's claim that Kinneavy and the rhetoricians are now being treated fairly also collapses under scrutiny. For example, Sutherland has said, repeatedly, that E 346K was unsuccessful because students did not take the variants relevant to their majors; but the English bureaucracy itself instructed departmental advisers that "students are not required to take the variant slanted toward their particular discipline."

Briefly, then, the Department of English's pots are calling its kettles black. Meanwhile, essential facts are being ignored. The department cannot unite on a writing program because it is divided by the struggle between the literati and the rhetoricians. Even when the department has been more unified, the administration has never provided adequate support for any of the long series of unsuccessful writing programs. An honest decision now would be simply to abandon all requirements in English, since they will never be supported; but instead the department's

most recent committee proposes to require a course which the University will not offer. Professor Sutherland calls that proposal "Splendid."

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English battles endless

Your front-page story about "unfair representation" on the most recent E 346K committee (*Texan*, Wednesday, "Critics of E 346K Committee claim unfair representation") misses the point of the battle over the University's writing courses.

Professor Kinneavy is now crying