

gathering material for a fifth issue of *Phoenix*; 'I like stuff written in the most vigorous praise or blame-black be black, white white, and above all, red red'.<sup>80</sup> Someone, probably Lowry, had galleys of these contributions made, including a review of *Douglasism or Communism?*: 'a remarkable little pamphlet'.<sup>81</sup> The printing of the first volume of poetry was begun: Allen Curnow's *Valley of Decision*, promised since June, was being machined by September (Plate XI).

The inevitable action came. Late in September O'Shea 'confirmed' with the Executive that:

absolutely no printing will be done on, or with Student Association press, equipment, or material except for, or for the purposes of, college administration, or the Students' Association, including any of its affiliated Clubs or Societies . . . it is understood that this decision will be very definitely impressed upon the printer.<sup>82</sup>

At the same time, Lowry sent a letter to the Executive which they took to be his resignation as their printer: 'the Executive has decided that you be asked for official confirmation of your decision to terminate the contract. . . . An early intimation will oblige'.<sup>83</sup> Their request went unanswered until November, for Lowry had fled. Leaving Ron Holloway in the middle of the Curnow job, Lowry hitch-hiked south with Elsie Farrelly, en route to Glover in Christchurch:

Auckland has got too much for me and I'm coming South. Overwork has taken my nerves so badly that I can't think straight to clear up the mess, and I'm cutting my losses. If there's any chance of a job for me in Christchurch at even a quid a week let's know and I'll come. Here's your big chance for us to get together as advocated . . . I'll be reduced to extreme shabbiness & £4 when I hit Wellington.<sup>84</sup>

Auckland did not of course turn a blind eye to Lowry, and the disciplinary procedures began. In October, his application for exemption from Terms examinations was turned down; his scholarship revoked; and worst of all, the Professorial Board of the College resolved to suspend him 'sine die, and report the matter to the New Zealand University'.<sup>85</sup> Lowry had been proscribed.

In November the financial mess of the press under Lowry was revealed. O'Shea received a letter from a receiver appointed to Queen City Press, Lowry's chief supplier of metal, stating that £19.17.6 was outstanding. This was the tip of the iceberg. In a *Report* to the Students' Association Executive, Postlewaite stated that Lowry's actions and departure left the Students' Association itself in financial difficulties.

Debts and liabilities contracted in connection with the printing press [amount] to £342.18.7. It can be definitely established that this amount represents £70.19.2 for Mr Lowry's own private debts, £35.5.8 due to *Phoenix* magazine creditors, and £185.8.10 is a charge against the Students' Association. The balance, £51.4.11, is for metal against which credit notes have been received.<sup>86</sup>

On hearing this, the Executive denied responsibility for the *Phoenix*