

Poddar arbiter says YSU reasons are legal

The court-appointed who heard the case of the non-renewal of Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology Bhagwati P. K. Poddar's contract found that "the reasons given by the University are not arbitrary and capricious and are supported by sufficient and credible factual basis and were not motivated by and based upon constitutionally improper reasons."

Atty. Stanley M. Fisher of Cleveland, the hearing officer, submitted his findings and recommendations to U. S. District Court Judge Frank J. Battisti last Friday. Attorneys for Dr. Poddar and YSU will meet with Judge Battisti in chambers Thursday before he issues his final order in the case.

Atty. Fisher, an experienced arbitrator, recommended in his 18-page report that YSU renew Dr. Poddar's contract for the academic year 1971-72 because Dr. Poddar has been assigned a teaching schedule and was "deprived of a timely opportunity to seek other employment" through YSU's delay in giving him the reasons for non-renewal and a hearing on them.

Fisher's findings cited the deterioration of the working relationship between Dr. Poddar and the other senior members of his department following his failure to receive a promotion as a valid reason for not renewing his contract. Mr. Fisher noted that the determinations of Dr. Poddar's co-workers in the depart-

ment of sociology and anthropology "are partially or even totally justified by highly subjective considerations and some subtle and difficult to articulate."

Fisher found that Dr. Poddar was "a well qualified and competent teacher," and that "while (Dr. Poddar's) performance was impaired within this department because of his sensitivity, suspicions and displeasure over his own denial of promotion...these circumstances should not deter any other institution of learning from hiring Dr. Poddar in the future since his credentials and performance...attest to his qualifications to teach in any university."

The findings also noted that "the failure of the university to communicate certain basic requirements for promotion, such as tenure, to those responsible for making recommendations to the (Promotions) Committee appears highly conducive to creating ill-feelings among its faculty."

Fisher further found that there is no evidence.. "to the effect that

(Cont. on page 2)

Poddar (Cont. from page 1)

national origin had anything to do with the denial of his promotion.

'Dr. Poddar's) race, color or