RACE RELATIONS AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITIES

Last May Chairman Bolen named Professors Furr, Strickland, and Crews to a committee created to look into and report on race relations at colleges and universities in the South. The committee sent out letters to fourteen institutions and received information on eight schools.

The gathered information suggests that the University of Mississippi's action in some areas involving black students is in keeping with what the reporting institutions have done; in other respects we appear to be lagging behind these schools. The percentage of black enrollment here compares favorably to the enrollment at schools from which we heard; on the other hand we do not have the active recruitment program of black students as exists at Florida State and the University of Virginia. We appear to lag behind the reporting schools in the areas of black student leadership, black participation in athletics, faculty and administrative positions held by blacks. The most significant difference that we can detect in race relations at the University of Mississippi and at the majority of institutions responding to our inquiry is that of policy. Several of the schools, notably the University of Arkansas, Florida State, and Virginia appear to have a systematic policy of recruiting blacks and in aiding their participation in campus life.

The committee suggests that a copy of its report be sent to Chancellor Fortune and Dean Moak, and it recommends that the faculty senate follow the lead of Florida State University and set up a committee on black student affairs. This committee would be composed of members of the senate and black students, and a representative of the University administration would be extended membership on the committee.

Shortly before the material assembled in this report was to be mimeographed, the committee received a copy of the Chancellor's report on responses to the black students' grievances. The committee is heartened by that report, and in the light of the progress being made in human relations on this campus we think the information that follows becomes more timely and should prove informative to members of the Senate.

The material that follows was taken from the letters received from responding institutions and applies primarily to the 1969-70 school year, not the current year. Copies of the letters are available and may be seen by any member of the senate.

Institutions with Black Deans:

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock
-Black Dean of Men

Institutions with Black Administrators, Counselors, Faculty Members, etc:

The University of Arkansas
-Resident assistants
-Head residents

The Florida State University
-Part-time black counselor
-Several full-time black faculty members