

From The People

Nationalism And Dixie

To the Editor:

I personally think the citizens of the sovereign state of Arkansas, in particular, students and alumni of the University of Arkansas should relieve Mr. Eldon Janzen, the new band director, of the awesome responsibility for protecting band members from violence for playing "Dixie", by asking for and obtaining his resignation.

In these days of "anti-everything" as an excuse for violence, each person, who is or has been placed in a position which could strengthen nationalism, should be an example of faith and belief in the battle-tested principles for which our government stands.

The Republic was neither born nor obtained by fear or concession. It was battle-born and sustained by nationalistic violence upon any people who threatened its existence. Our history is a record of individuals intelligent enough to know they could only remain free by fighting for it.

"Dixies Land", better known to the unformed (?) like Mr. Janzen as "Dixie", is an important heritage of our people. "Dixie" never was a Southern negro hate song "as now claimed." It is the only significant Civil War song which drew on the Negro musical idiom in any manner. The words and music were written by the Northerner, Mr. Daniel Decatur Emmett, one of the first and greatest of America's black-face min-

strels, in September 1859. Northerners so loved the song that its popularity grew until the whole of the North began singing it. It was introduced in New Orleans in 1860 from where its popularity spread throughout the South. I think it is one of the greatest compliments our country could pay the negro, and it had its birth here in America. The other two most popular war songs, "The Bonnie Blue Flag" (later "Stars and Bars") and "Maryland, My Maryland" both drew upon European sources for their melodies.

I beg the people of the State of Arkansas, as well as any other sovereign state, North, East, South and West within the Union, not to prohibit the use of freedom's results. Banning "Dixie" is another step toward elevating ignorance, fear and concession to the rule of our country.

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