

# Equity, Grievances Committee Suggests Compromise For Dec. 6

The University Senate Equity and Grievances Committee made two recommendations in a letter to Dr. R. A. Worthington, director of the Marching Razorback Band, last night after a four and a half hour meeting.

The recommendations read as follows: (1) "University of Arkansas Band not play "Dixie" in the future at any University function.

Realizing that people are slow to change a tradition, an example of the deemphasis is needed. The University has a fine "fight" song which is sufficient to maintain the University of Arkansas "spirit." To demonstrate that the present fight song is sufficient, we further recommend as follows:

(2) That, as for the present, and more precisely, at the Arkansas-Texas game, "Dixie" be played whenever wanted during the first half of the game by the

University band at the discretion of the Band Director and the official fight song not be played; and that during the second half of the game only the official Arkansas Fight Song be played as a fight song.

If in the future the University community feels it desires a second fight song, then we suggest it use its full resources to impose a new song.

Carbon copies of these recommendations were not only given to Dr. Worthington, but also to the Faculty Senate and to President Mullins. They were asked to "Promptly respond to the University community on these recommendations."

In its letter the committee explained that if "Dixie" is allowed to continue at all UofA functions, it would appear that "the University is supporting principles of injustice — even though applicable to a small part of the student body."

All efforts, the letter added, should be directed "toward the development of communication at all levels of the University and the Committee realizes its own significant role in this endeavor."

Student government and Black

Americans for Democracy were also asked to assume their "rightful role in the dialogue."

The Equity and Grievances Committee is designed to serve "in the ombudsman capacity for students and faculty to assure fair and equal treatment for all," according to President Mullins.

Before the final recommendations were decided on, petitions in favor of "Dixie," containing approximately 1,200 signatures were presented to the committee.

These petitions stated that they did not feel that the recent Student Senate action of recommending the discontinuation of the song represented the "views of a majority of students on this campus and should therefore be disregarded."

Raymond Tyra, a senior law student and a student representative of the American Bar Association from the UofA, pointed out that since "Dixie" has (See DIXIE on Page 4)

## Dixie Only One Of Thirteen Black Demands-

(Continued from Page 1)

become an issue, it has taken on racist qualities."

Another student felt that the song should be played both Friday and Saturday because of the need for a student referendum on the issue.

Before the meeting, Dr. George Smith, chairman of the committee, explained their approach to issues the committee handled. "We have a wider range of interests to consider than just the Student Senate in reference to the Senate's vote to discontinue "Dixie." We have to consider the ideas of varied groups throughout the campus, the alumni and friends of the University." A reasoned approach is the best approach."

Concerning an administrative decision on the "Dixie" issue, Dr. William F. Denman, dean of student affairs, speaking for President Mullins, said, "From the very beginning of the issue of "Dixie" the posture of the president on "Dixie" has been that this is primarily a student matter that should be spoken to by the students since it is a student tradition, by and large, and one that will not be resolved by presidential edict, but which should be acted upon by regular University communications."

In an interview with the TRAVELER, Dr. Denman pointed out that the question of "Dixie" had started several years ago.

"The Blacks feel that they

have used the channels (administrative) and that almost nothing has been done. Others feel that all the channels have not been used by the people who want to see change."

The issue was originally raised by a group of whites headed by a former UofA student, Jo Neal, to the Student Senate. Dr. Denman added

because of a lack of attendance from blacks and other students who felt this way, the Senate did not vote on the question.

Last spring the Black Concerns Committee, chaired by Dr. Darrell Slack, was forced to deal with the whole realm of black students and their problems, Denman explained. Three sub-committees were appointed to handle social problems, academic problems and the recruitment of Black students, faculty and administration.

The Black Concerns Committee last semester recommended the discontinuance of "Dixie" in an attempt to, according to the committee's report, "eliminate practices of mockery and/or disparagement of Blacks from functions of the University."

Dr. Worthington also submitted a letter to the Student Senate last year stating that if any legislative body on the campus recommended the discontinuing of Dixie, that he would abide by their decision.

According to John Stifferud, dean of men, Dr. Worthington decided after the Student Senate vote, to stop the playing of the song. Dr. Worthington was unavailable for comment on this issue with the Equity and Grievance Committee recommendations.

As a result, Dixie was not played at Wednesday's pep rally

held on Dickson Street. A recording of "Dixie," however, was played loudly from the house adjacent to Kappa Sigma fraternity. A large part of the approximately 300 students present went to this area where they called the Hogs and sang Dixie.

But the "Dixie" issue is not the only demand sought by the University's Black students. Last week 35 Blacks interrupted a meeting to give Dr. Mullins a list of 13 demands.

They included the "Dixie" issue, recruitment of black students, recruitment of black staff and faculty, removal of all sanctions on sororities and fraternities that have discriminatory practices, hiring of black teachers for black history studies, more African exchange students to be given a better chance of attending the University, immediate financial aid to black students and prospective black students, provision for a black cultural center in the new student union, extension of financial service and aid to be made available to the black community; black history mandatory for all students until incorporated into American history courses, employment of a black security policeman, an end to all harassment of black students by white students and removal of an individual "for an attempt to run down a black girl."

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This article was re-typed so it would be easier to read.

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Arkansas Traveler, Vol. 64, No. 66  
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