

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. David Mullins, President, University of Arkansas
FROM: Eldon Janzen, Director of Bands
SUBJECT: Formulation of Policy: "Dixie"
DATE: August 31, 1970

This is a brief review of my thinking regarding the resumption of the use of "Dixie" in conjunction with University athletic events. This is presented for your consideration prior to such time as we may have the opportunity to discuss this matter in person.

1. My personal feeling is not entirely in sympathy with those who demand that this particular piece of music will not be heard at University functions.

2. However, it is my feeling that to resume the use of this song after its termination by the previous Band Director could produce detrimental effects to the reputation of the University, running also a decided risk of conflict on the University campus which could bring about bodily harm to students under my supervision.

Our University enjoys a great deal of national publicity and the tensions and dissent which would be generated by resuming the playing of this song would be a discredit to this institution.

Further, I feel that the University Band should not be cast in the role of formulating either political or administrative policy by once again becoming embroiled in this matter. Our job is to conduct such musical activities as would compliment this school and promote school spirit which could serve to unite our student body and our supporters. I interpreted the playing of "Dixie" to be a tool of dissent at this juncture. It is my sincere belief that as time passes, reason will again prevail and "Dixie" may be again heard as the symbol of the people rather than the race.

Finally I must say that I am reluctant to become involved in this issue because of the responsibility I feel that I owe to the parents of each of the men and women who take part in the University Band under my direction. These students contribute far more of their time and efforts than the credit value of any similar course requires. I think the possibility of injury and violence over this issue is real; I would prefer not to expose them to such a possibility on the basis of my decision to play this song.

I would welcome your opinion and suggestions regarding this matter.

EJ/dg