

Student Senate Votes 28-6 To Discontinue Playing Dixie

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Earlier in the day the "Dixie" issue (which was brought out in the open at last Tuesday's pep rally when 60 to 70 blacks marched on the stage of the Greek Theatre and assumed the hour debate among approximate-band's chairs) spurred a two-ly 300 people at an open forum of the University Senate Equity and Grievance Committee in the Law building courtroom.

The Equity and Grievance Committee will present a recommendation concerning "Dixie's" future tonight to President Mullins.

The motion to abolish "Dixie" which came after over two hours of discussion, was made by Eddie Walker, Junior Arts and Sciences Senator. The Senate had voted last week to devote this last night's session to a black-white dialogue. After opening comments by Eugene Hunt, Off-Campus from Pine Bluff; and Senon Thompson, Off-Campus from Little Rock. The Senate broke up into smaller groups to to-face basis with blacks and discuss the problem on a face-to-face members of the Senate minority committee. Over 100 people attended the meeting and participated in the discussions.

Thompson told the Senate that one of the arguments most frequently used by white students was "I don't mean any

harm when I sing Dixie." To this Thompson commented, "I'm telling you now, you are doing harm."

On this point Cook added that "this one thing (the playing of Dixie) hurts me, makes me mad and I tell you that and you ignore me: So you must consider me a non-human."

Hunt explained that to him Dixie represents a way of life that whites don't want to give up. "Yet it hurts you and you don't want to talk about it — you don't want to realize that your grandfather might have been my grandfather's master."

All three of the speakers called for action on the part of campus leaders.

In the discussion groups many of the Senators expressed the opinion that if they consider their constituency's wants, they would have to vote to continue Dixie. One black coed told them in answer that if it was left up to the majority, neither she, nor any black would be here at the University.

Junior Engineering Senator Robert Cupp told the Senate that although he was sure his constituency would want Dixie continued, "I'm going to stick

my neck out and I hope this trust can be extended in other areas."

"I don't know what you've got planned in the future, and I don't care, but don't let down my trust from one man to another," he asked.

Responding to the result of the vote, Thompson said, "It's not the kind of feeling like the Black man is saying 'thank you.' It's the feeling that it is nice to see that consciousness can be reached."

"Some students have made up their minds to make their decision in an appropriate way. The problem itself has not yet been solved. If President Mullins cares not to act appropriately the problem still exists."

At yesterday's forum, one Black pointed out that she wanted to be a part of the school spirit . . . "but I'm not going to go there and be insulted."

Several blacks seemed to hold the opinion expressed by one black, "Dixie is offensive. If you want to live with us peacefully, why can't you just throw it out?"

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was a question of "give and take" — not "give-in, but give . . . if we're not afraid, we can try it out."

"You (the blacks) made it an issue," Boothe continued. "You called the white people some names . . . They're fighting back because they think you're fighting them."

One of the points brought out repeatedly was that the University did have a fight song and that there was no need for Dixie. Others suggested a compromise involving retaining Dixie and adding other songs such as "We Shall Overcome."

Another student claimed, "A pep rally shouldn't be a pep rally for political beliefs."

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

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