

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA 19081

BUSINESS OFFICE

January 10, 1969

Memorandum to Courtney Smith

From Lewis T. Cook, Jr. *JA*

About 9 a.m. on January 8, 1969 Harold Buchanan and two other students came to see me in my office. I was asked if I had had meetings with employees concerning the SASS situation. I replied that all employees had been given the 4 written documents and that we had asked them to read the information if they wished to form their own opinion. I also stated that it was our feeling that all members of the college community, students, faculty and staff should have the same basic information.

I was asked if I would invite employees, particularly employees from Food Service, House Director and Superintendent's department to attend a meeting at 1:30 p.m. in Sharples. I asked if all college employees would be welcome and was told they would be, but that they were particularly concerned that the personnel from the three operating departments have the opportunity to hear from SASS and to ask questions if they wished. All ~~operating~~ ^{operating} employees and others were informed of the meeting.

At 1:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter as I stood in the West Dining Room where several employees were assembled, I was asked by a black student to step outside. At this time I was informed there had been a misunderstanding and that the meeting was for black employees only. I stated I had been asked to invite employees and this I had done and that everyone assembled was an employee, including myself. Again I was told they were sorry but that regardless of what I'd been told, they wanted a black meeting so that no one would feel inhibited. I stated that I would like to make a statement of my understanding of the request for a meeting and SASS members agreed. I explained to the assembled group, both black and white, that I'd been asked to invite employees to attend a meeting at 1:30 p.m. at which SASS would be available to explain their position and answer questions. I further stated that SASS now wished this to be an all black meeting and that I was sorry that I had asked all employees to attend a meeting at which they were not now welcomed by SASS. I then stated that I was leaving

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and that it was up to the employees there to do as they wished. All whites left since SASS was not prepared to talk until it was an all black meeting.

From Louis T. Cook, Jr.

In retrospect, it might have been better for me to ask that the request Harold Buchanan made be reduced to writing, informing me just what they wanted me to do, but at the time I felt the more relaxed atmosphere of stating that I was perfectly agreeable ~~XX~~ to SASS having an opportunity to explain their position to employees Collectively, particularly those whose schedule would have precluded their attending the 12:30 Commons meeting on Tuesday, was more in keeping with our basic policy of making all information available to all members of the community. could have the same

basic information.

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cc: Edward K. Cratsley
William S. Anton

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