

JAN 30 1969

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

DIVISION OF CHEMISTRY

Jan. 27, 1969

(Dear Mr. Shane:

Thank you for your note of Jan. 22. I think I understand the reason for your reluctance to have off-campus people, however well intentioned, get into direct contact with the families of the young people who have been actively involved in the SASS matter. I had second thoughts myself about meddling where only the most tactful approaches will prove useful.

I had a long talk last week with an old friend who is a dean at Brandeis. For your information (and because of the touchiness of the situation there this is of course in confidence) it is the feeling there at the administrative level that essentially two useful measures can and should be taken:

1-- the recruiting of the better negro students is an extremely wasteful business when 600 colleges send out 600 admissions office people looking for the best 400 colored students! Far wiser would be to have the NAACP, CORE, the Black Panthers and all the other negro groups get together (and I daresay that in itself may raise problems) and do the hard work of spotting the abler negro college applicants; such a central agency could send resumes to all the colleges interested in building up their negro student population, whether of the risk

Pride in our Past



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type or not.

2. The admission of risk students is a very expensive matter as you well know, and the psychological effect of large numbers of such students being forced to leave school for academic failure will be very bad. Therefore final year (maybe for one intensive year after completion of the regular high school 4 years) special college prep schools should be established--probably at first supported financially by the pool of interested colleges--in the major cities of the country. The serious argument against this idea is that to really accelerate the learning process these youngsters must be taken clean out of their usually uninspiring home environment. Even half a dozen special boarding schools spread around the country for the last one or two years of high school might be a better answer.

At Brandeis they are simply depressed at the thought of syphoning off the energies of their faculty into high school teaching channels.

I have obtained copies of Dean Hargadon's committee report, of Pres. Smith's Jan 3 letter to the students, and the very interesting letter of John Morrow. I also have a detailed letter from a Swarthmore senior, and an informative one from a faculty member. I showed all this material to my brother Alden ('39) yesterday, and he is as disturbed as I am about the contempt shown for high academic standards by the SASS letter of demands. I am sending copies of all this material to my Brandeis friend, who is intensely interested in the Swarthmore situation. (He is Dean Saul Cohen). I note with interest the Harvard report.

May I close with the expression of my opinion on two matters: under no circumstances should the academic standards at Swarthmore, once a student is on campus, be diluted. And NO QUOTA system, such as Brown has very unwisely got entangled with, be established.

Sincerely, David Gold