

1465 Granville Drive
Winter Park, Florida

February 14, 1969

Mr. Joseph B. Shane,
Vice President
Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081

Dear Joe:

I have read with a great deal of interest and concern, your letter of January 28, 1969 and the other documents you mentioned describing the whole situation at Swarthmore.

I probably did not phrase my original inquiry adequately about what the college proposes to do about this situation. The big questions which have been in my mind from the beginning are still unanswered. We're dealing with a situation here which is not peculiar to Swarthmore, but rather is a national problem which in my opinion, could easily assume critical proportions as far as the future of our Country is concerned.

I certainly feel that every individual and group in this Country, youthful or otherwise, should have the right to express opinions and also have the right to be heard. The big point, however, which appears to be missed in incidents and demonstrations involving student groups throughout the Country is that the right to be heard should not be considered synonymous with the right to prevail. Nor does the right to be heard include the right to use force or the right to seize property (even without violence).

I appreciate the fact that the faculty and administration of the college are working on the problem and I also appreciate the difficult nature of many of the decisions that they have to make. It seems to me, however, that several principles should be adopted and religiously followed. They are:

1. The right of individuals and minority groups to be heard must be protected;
2. The right of properly constituted authority (the administration) to decide what is right for the college and to make rules governing

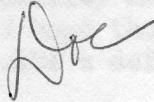
the admission, retention, behavior and actions of students must be clearly established and maintained;

3. Use of force by individuals or minority groups to satisfy their demands, whether or not violence is involved, is not compatible with the democratic process and cannot be condoned;
4. Individuals or minority groups who do not wish to abide by established rules of conduct and behavior should not be allowed to continue as students. Breaches of discipline should be appropriately dealt with regardless of race, creed or color.

These are the points on which I would like some assurance from the college, particularly those pertaining to order and law enforcement. As much as I love my college, I could not continue to support any institution which yields to force or threats of force. This in my considered judgement can only lead to the erosion and ultimate destruction of the democratic principles on which our Country is founded.

I hope to hear from you further.

Sincerely,



R. L. Gould

RLG/mi

February 21, 1969

Dear Doc:

I am sure you realize that all of us at Swarthmore are carrying a larger burden than in the past and this is the reason your letter of February 14 has not been answered until today.

I will try to answer your four questions.

1. We did agree wholeheartedly that the right of individuals and minority groups to be heard must be protected and yes, I would even go further and say we encouraged it.
2. I do think you are absolutely right - that the Board of Managers and the administration, with the help of Faculty and whenever possible, students, must designate constituted authority and decide what is right for the College. As the report stated there is to be a joint committee to decide what should be done in the future if anything like this happens again.
3. We are united in believing that force is unrepresentative of "Swarthmore's way" whether it is non-violent and orderly and the Faculty has made it clear that it does not condone such methods. I hope the committee I mentioned before will clarify this and make a definite statement about it.
4. I agree wholeheartedly that individuals or minority groups who do not wish to accept the established rules should not be members of this community.

I am sure you realize that Courtney Smith did not want force to be used. There were some individuals on the Faculty and staff that felt differently. Certainly the educational and human objectives of all of us involved will be directed toward even greater integration for unless each group is contributing to the College as a whole, we will never achieve our objectives.

I am sure you will agree that all of us all over the country are wrestling with frightfully complex and difficult problems in the whole matter of race relations and none of us knows now how matters will stand even a few months ahead.

I hope and pray we will all do our best.

My best wishes to you and may I say once again
the College needs the understanding and support of people like
you.

Truly yours,

Joseph B. Shane
Vice President

Mr. R. L. Gould
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