

DRAFT

of the Black Center in a way that will 13 March 1970 effectiveness for the

To the Members of SASS: as they desire, and at the same time provide

I would like very much for us to find a way out of our present impasse about a Black Cultural Center for Swarthmore. It would I know mean a lot to the College to have such a Center, because I agree with you about its support to the sense of freedom and independence of the Black students, and hence to their dignity, and to their self-development while here. I wish very much for that self-development to be at a maximum for all of our students, and I came to Swarthmore in the belief that a way can be found that gives our students, including our Black students, the kinds of opportunities that will give each of them the best chance for education, and for growth and enrichment that respects their own gifts and way of life.

Swarthmore will I think be a better place with the use of Robinson House as a part of our College primarily for the felt needs of our Black students, and incidentally helping us all by increasing the genuineness and creative participation of our students in seeking truth and understanding. I would be troubled if we cannot proceed with something that seems so positive a gain, both to ^{the College} (me) and to SASS.

On that account I am trying again to see whether there is a way that will satisfy SASS that the Center will be effective in a way I know they want (and in fact I want too), and that will also be within the general College framework of which we are all a part. Fortunately with Dean Closson as a member of the College staff, we have a College official who has direct responsibilities in support of the academic success and social welfare of our Black students. I would hope very much we might explore ways in which his activity in an administrative role might both represent the concern of the College for inclusion

of the Black Center in a way that will keep its effectiveness for the Black community intact as they desire, and at the same time provide us with a means toward ensuring that we are giving due concern to the requirements of the law and the fundamental educational purposes of the College. I am confident that SASS wishes these purposes to be served. It would be very helpful if they will recognize that my aim is to find acceptable administrative arrangements that are free of racist overtones -- which with SASS I deplore -- and will at the same time stay inside the general framework of institutional responsibilities that govern us all. I would be grateful if SASS would join me in working toward a solution that can take these concerns into account.

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