

3 March 1970

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert A. Barr  
Edward K. Cratsley  
Charles E. Gilbert  
Joseph B. Shane  
Deborah Townsend

FROM: Robert D. Cross

At our staff meeting on Wednesday, 4 March, I'd like to discuss with you another demarche towards the troubled problem of providing an adequate Black Cultural Center.

- 1) Much as I disliked the tone and rhetoric of SASS' response to my letter assuring them of Lodges 5-6 for next year for a Black Cultural Center, if nothing more satisfactory became available, I have to admit that Lodges 5-6 are not ideal, - either for a cultural center, or in view of the activities that would be displaced as a result.
- 2) I don't think there can be any real justification for using one of the special houses, - Ashton, Robinson, or Woolman. They are too much needed for dormitory space, and too adjacent to the village to be happy prospects.
- 3) If a fraternity house was to become available, it would have some advantages in terms of location. I'm not sure now whether SASS would regard a fraternity house as "big enough." But the possibility still remains, I guess. However, I don't see how we can progress much at this time in discussions with SASS until the fraternity situation is clarified, - which probably won't be until late in the Spring.
- 4) I am inclined to think that we should reconsider the use of Cunningham House. Presumably, we could fit up some office space there for the Black Counsellor, and for the Director of Black Studies, - if either of these notions seems desirable. We could also perhaps house the Clossons there, if they wanted that kind of coexistence with students. (The

Clines have alleged that this would be both desirable and attractive to the Clossons, but I don't want to raise this possibility with them, if the general solution seems foreclosed.) I should not be adverse to a couple of bedrooms being kept for fraternity-type caretakers, or visitors.

To keep within the law, we should have to insist on the quasi-public character of the house, as evidenced by the presence of some offices there, and by an avowed willingness of SASS to make the facilities available, at least on occasion, to general collegiate functions. This requirement patently detracts from the notion, occasionally advanced by SASS and also - most recently - in the recommendations submitted to Penn State, that black students need a special "home". But I think it is worth contending for.

I invite your comments.