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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
University of Idaho

611 Whitman Hall
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843
April 17, 1974

Mr. Ernest W. Hartung, President
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Dear Mr. Hartung:

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss a few racial problems on the University of Idaho campus. As you are aware, by the same communique I presume, there is a list of 10 items which, when administered, will alleviate black discrimination.

First, let me regress to the "Historical Record" of the black grievances. They noted that only one of fifteen black persons which enter this university graduate. Is this because classes are too hard, discrimination is present, or admittance standards in these instances are too low?

Second, it has been my observation that the conflicts between housing and minorities are a result of violation of housing contracts by these minority persons (i.e. dogs in dorms, organizational dues payment procrastinated, etc.) in which other residents have applied pressure, unsuccessfully, to housing to enforce the contracts with these individuals, which leads me to question # 6 of the communique. I do not know the feasibility or numbers of persons to be hired (and fired) to achieve minority balances of qualified Student Advisory personnel, but it is of my knowledge that there have been no qualified minority persons who have applied for Resident Advisorship positions, with the exceptions of a few Native Americans.

Third, is it "Political Castigation" to serve the same food to all races in which all said such races are burdened with the same opinion of that food quality? Furthermore, I believe that an alternate diet for those who do not wish particular dishes can be arranged by contacting the head dietitian.

Fourth, let me ask why minorities feel, such as indicated by item # 4, that students in majority groups do not have financial difficulties also? I understand there is a higher ration of scholarships to black students than there are scholarships to white students.

Fifth, what are the Dorm Administration Discriminatory Policies referred to in item # 9? I don't know of any. Please send me a list!

Sixth, I too agree that athletes should be allowed to live off campus. But what has this to do with minorities? There are too many football players on scholarship to classify them as a minority!

Although I do not have the background to comment on all of the items of the communique, let me close with this:

I came to the University of Idaho first to get an education and then to support mandatory integration, be it of the classroom or my rights. Don't let our academic standards slip.

Housing vs. minority conflicts, as well as resident advisorship positions, are self-inflicted wounds in almost all cases. You can restrain a sadist, but you cannot restrain a masochist.

I do not need to summarize the other points listed but please feel free to inform me of any mistakes or unjust opinions.

Sincerely,



Vernon L. Newby