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[Message to students, circa May 13, 1997]

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MESSAGE TO STUDENTS AT SLC

I have been saddened to hear that students are angrily debating which students were right and which students were wrong about the tactics employed in the efforts for racial integration and cultural diversity. As I said in my letter to the General Committee and the Faculty, the commitment to racial integration and cultural diversity in faculty hiring is the **responsibility of the faculty and the administration**. It is extremely unfortunate, that students have been dragged into **this problem**. It is also very difficult for students to know what exactly to do about someone else's responsibility.

What all of you decided to do is to convince the Administration and Faculty to live up to its words on these principles. I am profoundly grateful for the support I have received on these issues from several factions of the student body: each one of those initiatives helped to communicate the outrage that many of us felt. The communication of those deeply felt concerns by such a large number of students helped the Administration and Faculty find the will to renew its commitment to racial integration and cultural diversity.

Major commitments have been made in the wake of our conversations on Wednesday. All of your voices are important to me, and I think I speak for the General Committee and the other leading Faculty committees. Within days those commitments will be communicated to the whole College.

These remaining days should be focused on bringing together the students who believe in racial justice! Unite, don't split. Rejoice in this victory, and don't allow bickering to steal this sweet moment in the history of the College. You have all participated in an important development; and each one of us, if we are honest about it, learned something in the process. Some of the lessons are painful: we are human, all too human. Despite that, your voices have made a difference.

In conclusion, I have been overwhelmed by the Faculty and student support I have received on the issues of racial integration and cultural diversity at the College. Thus, I do not think it will be necessary for me to resign from the General Committee. The Faculty has responded with numerous creative proposals to increase racial integration and to enhance cultural diversity. Students have given a great deal of thought to what should be done. Nothing can stop that momentum. I hope you will commit yourselves to making the Student Senate and the various student organizations stronger and more vocal on the important issues of our times: this was only one of them. Your participation in student government and student activism is the only way to see this effort through to the end.

Together We Will Win: Unite, Don't Split,

