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Transcripts of interview with Chuck Henderson conducted by Tom Fennessy of the Columbus Dispatch

Tom Fennessy

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L18

[From Denison's Public Relations office]

Call to Tom Fennessy, Columbus Dispatch, Wednesday, Mar. 18, 1970

in my office

Hello, Tom, Chuck Henderson, Denison U. Dave Mathews is sitting/right now. He just came in a minute ago, just as I got back.

Question about whether college was operating, classes were in session, and boycott.

No, no. We're still operating. Some students are choosing voluntarily on their own, I think, not to attend ~~classes~~ their classes because there seems to be an abundance of them around and ~~where~~ they are having what they call a "teach-in" or a dialogue over in Slayter Hall/ right now. It had a 15-minute adjournment about a half-hour ago, and I think the biggest crowd has broken up. It was very difficult to hear because they were ~~in~~ in the lobby floor, so they had a communication problem. They had a PA there, but it wasn't very effective because I was standing on the fringes. I ~~don't know anything~~ really don't know anything new to report, except there is a student meeting scheduled for tonight at 8 o'clock in Swasey Chapel.

Call to WCLT, Radio, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 19, 1970

By order of

~~BY ORDER OF DENISON UNIVERSITY~~ President Joel P. Smith, Doane Administration Building at Denison University will be closed Thursday (or today). Okay? Q I'm director of public information.

Call from Marcia Reynolds, Newark Advocate, Thursday, Mar. 19, 1970

Question from Marcia regarding when trustees would be meeting before regular meeting in April. She said she had heard in meeting yesterday in Slayter at about 1:15 that the president had said it would be impossible for the Board to meet Saturday but that members of the board would ~~try~~ try to meet with students earlier.

Question from Marcia regarding statement from President--All I know is that the President told me that he thought it was too early to make a statement.

Question from Marcia *asking if Pres. was available*

Well the building is closed today. Doane Administration Bldg. is closed today, and I don't know where the President is right now. Q I don't know if you'd be able to reach him.

Question about what else was closed. Just the Administration Building to my knowledge.

Question about why building was closed. Well, the President ordered the building closed and the reasons were primarily for the security of our employees, and protection of life and limb, and, you know, in order to avoid that possibility, ~~and~~ ~~this~~ was the primary reason. And the second reason was ~~to~~ to provide for the security of the building and the property contained in it.

Question--have you been on campus this morning?

Yes, yes, I've been on campus.

Question--are classes or some classes being conducted now. Yes, I believe so. I know of at least one that is.

Question--about classes being taken over. But the students who had planned to sit

TAPE 5, Line 24

Q. about number in full support of demands

Well, the number may not really be indicative of how many are in full support, and I think the degree of support varies accordingly. Now, at one meeting it was estimated that it drew between 1,000 and 1,200 students, a lot of whom were ~~there~~ there for information purposes and interested in discussion, interested in the topic. It's very difficult to determine what portion ~~in~~ of the student body is in support of the demands. But I would ascertain that since everybody supposedly had an opportunity to sign a petition ~~in~~ supporting the demands, and they had in the neighborhood of 650 to 700 signatures on that document, that approximately 1/3 of our student body supports the demands.

Q. about when petition.

Well, let's see; I can tell you. It was the 20th of January--the faculty ~~meeting~~ had a meeting on the thing, and it was that week--the 20th of January.

Q. about faculty meeting--to discuss black demands

No, sir. This was not a meeting to discuss the black issues as such. It was the regular ~~monthly~~ faculty meeting. It is closed but students have a representation at the faculty meeting--the president and vice president of the Campus Gov't Ass'n and the editor of the school paper are representatives. Then, too, the faculty may admit people by vote, and they had agreed to admit three Observers who were interested in the black situation which was going to be mentioned with the task force report, which never occurred. And also the faculty was aware that the students were simultaneously holding their own meeting on the black issues in another building. Q. Tuesday night. And when their meeting was over, their representative/~~representative~~ the man who was presiding at their meeting, had asked that he be seated at the faculty meeting and allowed to tell the consensus of the student meeting. This also was approved. Now he was never able to control the students, and there was some misunderstanding ~~on~~ what his function was on this. Q. The student meeting was over and the students started filing into the auditorium. They were asked to leave, and it was explained to the first students coming in the door that Berkley Freeman was going to be their spokesman, and that only he would be admitted to the meeting. And so the students left. Then some others came in another door, and while they were telling them the same thing, (there are four entrances to the auditorium), another group came in up on the top level. All the rest of them left again and closed the doors. About a dozen students came in the top door, they stood there, and they told them, and they stayed there. They didn't move. There were just about 10 or 12 of them, so somebody made a motion the faculty adjourn, and it was passed, and the faculty adjourned. And the rest of them poured into the auditorium almost about the same time--as soon as they heard about the adjournment.

Q. about adjournment, were black issues being discussed.

It was adjourned because the faculty were being interrupted. We were not discussing at the time, and some of the faculty, some of the ~~faculty supporting~~ ones who support the student movement, were very unhappy just barged into the meeting this way.

Q. about violence, obscenities, shouting

There was no obscenity that I heard. A couple students spoke rather loudly, but nothing that I would consider shouting, and there wasn't any problem or threat of physical violence/ to anybody as far as I knew. And I stayed...

Q. about whether we had any white radicals, SDS, or left extremists.

When you say White Radical, do you mean white liberal, or . . .? I mean ... No, sir, we/d don't have anything like that.

Q. about leadership of sit-in

I think the sit-in was predominately ~~time~~ led by the white leadership. I think there's leadership on both sides among the students. Q The student gov't officers have been involved but they have not done the major share of the conducting of meetings and things like that, in my opinion. But this again is hard to say. I know they (the student leaders) have been supporting it, including the past editor and editor of the school and the student gov't officers.

Q. about whether Denison had any policy to handle situations like this

I read executive committee statement from ~~Statement~~ on Dissent

I also spoke with Mr. Wentworth ~~off~~ the record to him on Ralph Lindeman, who had called in most of the information he had. Talked with him briefly about his relationship with the Krause family in Granville--he's married to Janet Krause.

p.m.

CALL TO JOHN MILTON, C-J, 10:30/ Tape 5, Line 89 Thursday, Mar. 19

Read to him executive committee statement, told him "no" that the President had not made ~~nothing~~ any other statement except the one about the closing of Doane Adm. Bldg., and that I ~~didn't~~ know when he would make a statement but when he did it would be released to the ~~press~~.

CALL TO SCRIPPS-HOWARD, 11:28 a.m., Tape 5, Line 98 FRIDAY, Mar. 20

Q. about whether school open or closed

Well, it's hard to say whether the school's open or closed. The Adm. Bldg. is closed. The other buildings on campus are open. Some classes are going on with ... Q. Correct. The Library was closed from 8 to 1 yesterday. It was reopened at 1 o'clock and remained open.

Q. about class attendance

I really can't say, because it depends on a lot of things, like discipline (subject area), whether they having an exam in the class, or you know. So I don't have any figures on that because I don't know that any are being kept. It seems like a lot of students are attending other meetings and things.

Q. about mass meeting--when and discussion topic

The mass meeting is set for 3 p.m. today, and what is going to be discussed at that, I ~~do~~ not know. Q. it's open to whom Well, students, faculty, anybody who wants to attend, I guess.

~~MM~~ I talked with Ted Virosko, who referred me to another reporter who took the above information.

END OF TAPE 5

Friday

TAPE 6 , Page 12

Mar 20 Call from United Press International, Columbus 11:55 a.m.

About

Question -- ~~Whether~~ or not boycott of classes is still going on ?

Yes, classes are being taught. The number of students attending varies pretty greatly. I think it's quite a few less than normal. I don't have any estimates or counts on classes being held or not being held or the number of students in them. Pretty much so I would say. There is a mass meeting scheduled for 3 p.m. today, and I don't know what the topic is going to be or what's going to happen at that, but the campus, at this point, is relatively quiet. The classes the students are conducting ^{have} ~~been~~ going on in small groups . You're welcome. Good-bye

5:20 p.m. Mar 20 Return call to Associated Press, George Dell

Yes, I have an official statement released by the Executive Committee about 10 minutes ago. Not too long, three ~~sentences~~ sentences, plus the introduction. The ~~Executive~~ Executive Committee on behalf of the faculty has adopted the following policy: In ~~three~~ three sentences, do you want it? The Executive Committee on behalf of the faculty, has adopted the following ~~policy~~ policy: ~~The~~ A Committee, community committee for communications has been appointed with Bruce Markgraf as chairman. So you can try to get a hold of him, too, if you want, because he is suppose to have the latest information on any of this situation. Markgraf -- he's chairman of the communications committee. Q No, he's professor and chairman of speech, and he ~~can~~ can be reached at anyone of five extensions on campus, but you can have the operator try to get him at the college, it's 582-9181. So he ^{can} provide information to you, too. Matter-of-fact he told me you had called and I assumed you knew about this somehow and he wasn't available, ^{he was going} to call you back and I said I would take care of it, and give you this Executive Committee information. One other thing, students have ~~added~~ added another demand to their list which ~~essentially~~ essentially is covered in the third part of the ^{in the} Executive Committee statement, and that is asking amnesty for students who participate ~~altern~~ ^{altern}---you know a couple places this college is listed as alternate college and ~~alternative~~ alternative college, but there's a semantic difference here. Most of the time it's alternate, so I think we will stick with alternate. I think I gave you alternative yesterday, but alternate college is the group that's holding classes in competition and have been encouraging students to attend their meetings rather than their regular classes. They have asked that students who ~~that~~ do this not be penalized in their academic work. Q They didn't say, they said until they accomplish their goal, which is full acceptance of the Black Student demands. Q Well, the Task Force told the students the progress that had been made and what was being done toward the implementation of the Black student demands. They told about the recruiting program, where it was, the recruitment of faculty, the recruitment of an admissions counselor, all the things the college is committed to, and the progress in ~~scholar~~ scholarship aid and aid for students. The ~~fact~~ faculty did pass-- what's that? The faculty did pass a policy statement on aid for black students and have allocated \$70,000 for incoming students this year. In addition, there's recruiting efforts in the area of transfer students from junior college being made. Now this is the kind of thing-- this was a progress report of their committee work. Q Boy, I can't tell you ~~what~~ what date, it was in the last month, but I don't remember if it was at the January Faculty Meeting or first part of February, but I think you can say that it was within the last month this action was adopted. If you want, I can find that out too. Q Well, I don't know that they will say much, except report progress on what--you know--the things I have ~~in~~ outlined briefly for you. That's the kind of report I think it will be, but I don't have any idea really. Q. Well I haven't talked to any student leaders. This afternoon -- well there's been different approaches all along on how implementation was going to be done, whether you favored this alternative college program or whether you favored trying to work within the establishment as is presently constituted, as the Task Force is doing, and there are different degrees of moderation up and down the line. Q So --yes, I would say there has been debate on both sides of the issue, both ways to accomplish the purpose. Q No, I don't even know if they have gotten the statement yet, I doubt ^{that} if the majority of faculty know about it yet.

- Q. No, that was the Executive Committee, too. Well, you will note that ~~in~~ this statement says, it is expected that -- it doesn't say faculty members shall-- don't quote me on saying that -- but it does modify it and leave some -- the responsibility remains with faculty members and, I think, if the faculty member assumes his responsibility and still chooses to participate in the other, he has that freedom within the statement. Now that is just my own personal opinion, so don't quote me on that, You can put the statement down any way you want. ~~That's~~ That's correct, and I don't think that's changed, the Executive Committee and faculty affirms that the teaching of classes shall be at the discretion of the individual faculty member. It is understood that a faculty member who chooses to cancel class has an obligation to hold a make-up class. So the obligation remains there, but the freedom of individual responsibility also is written into it, I think. Does that make sense? O.K. Well, I don't want to be quoted on saying that it's ~~strong~~ stronger, I don't know how it's going to be accepted yet. I am still -- I think they finished up this afternoon. Q. Yes, the report was that a small group of students --and ~~they~~ this was at the 3 o'clock meeting-- ~~an~~ ^{the} announcement, ~~was that~~ a small group of students were participating in a hunger strike and -- they didn't say -- a small group was the description used in the announcement and said they were very dedicated to that as a way of personal expression -----
- Q. None of the trustees have indicated that they were coming to the college before the regular meeting, to my knowledge, and I haven't heard anything else from anyone else that would indicate that the trustees had responded on this yet. O.K. George. Good-bye.

END OF TAPE ~~6~~ 6

Mar. 23, Monday, 10:20 a.m.

yes, George

Speaking, yes sir. Q I am just preparing a statement on what has gone on rather than what is going on, not much is going on today, it is pretty quiet. Q Number one, the building has been reopened and we are back in our offices. Number two, the president held, ^{small} or conducted a series of nine special meetings with the entire faculty in ^{small} groups of 15 to 20 over the weekend. At these meetings he discussed the rights and obligations of faculty and students, administration under these kinds of situations, and it was open for extensive discussion on issues raised by the black student demands, and then-- what's that? Q You mean from the faculty? I'm not certain, I can't really answer that because I didn't attend any of these. Now, also, I think the most significant action that has been taken is that the president ~~x~~ did meet Sunday with the chairman of the Board and another Board member and they reviewed the current campus situation with members of the faculty and elected student leaders. There was ~~some~~ recognition of the need for a meeting at which student views could be expressed to the Board, and President Smith, John E.F. Wood, chairman of our board, and Richard ~~Bob~~ Bodorff, president of Denison Campus Government Ass'n,-- John E. F. Wood, Richard Bodorff, right, president of DCGA-- are going to work out a format for this type of meeting to be held Thursday, April 9.

probably

members of

Q That ^{is} difficult for me to say certainly, I believe so. A memo that was published and signed, a ditto memo that was published and unsigned on the weekend said that thirty students were participating in this and I know it's a small group but I think it is relatively accurate as far as numbers are concerned.

Q I just got that 10 minutes ago and I have not had any student response, I doubt if the students know about it at this point, I don't think it has been announced to them, that's what I've got to do now.

Right, good-bye, George.

Dyle

10:45 a.m., George Tyall, WCLT

Good morning, George. Pretty good. Yes, Sir. Yes Sir, it is. Q I don't know at this point, George, whether Mr. Badeau will agree to this or not. Oh, Oh, O.K. Yes, he said it was O.K. I do believe, ^{Mr} I'll double check it, but I think that's ~~x~~ O.K. You ^{know} Badeau was the one that Wolfe had the most question about because he does publish a lot and some of these people who publish a lot are kind of restrictive in their permissions on broadcasting, but we will probably check that too with him when he arrives on campus. Q Just a minute, I think, Hang on, Winnie. I wouldn't even hazard a guess because it is very difficult to know on this thing. The Executive Committee -- if you want to get on the current situation on campus -- the Executive committee did issue a statement last week urging faculty and students to resume their regular class schedules today, and I am sure some of this is being done, and to what extent students are not going to classes is very difficult to say at this point. There is some news on this area. The president announced to me this morning that he has conducted a series of nine special meetings with the entire faculty in small groups of 15 or 20 over the weekend, and at these meetings, the rights, roles, and responsibilities of faculty and students in a situation such as we have on campus now was discussed. There is extensive and open discussion of the ~~substant~~ ^{substantive} issues raised by the black student demands. In addition, he announced that there was a ~~recognition~~ ^{recognition} recognition of a need for a meeting at which student views could be expressed to members of the Board of Trustees. I'm working on this right now *to prepare a release.*

He said it was agreed that John E.F. Wood, the chairman of our Board of Trustees, Richard Bodorff, president of the Denison Campus Government Ass'n, and President Smith would work out the format for such a meeting to be held on ~~Thursday~~ Thursday, April 9. Now, Mr. Wood and Dr. William Bowen, a Board member, were in Granville Sunday for consultation and discussion. At the request of Mr. Wood and Mr. Bowen, they reviewed the current situation with President Smith and members of the faculty and elected student leaders. I suppose the only other point of news is that Doane Administration building has reopened this morning. The president opened the building. That should just about bring you ~~up~~ up to the situation as far as I know at this point. That's correct. Right. John E.F. Wood, he goes from the nickname of Jef from JEF, actually, but -- president of Denison Campus Government Ass'n (DCGA) He is our top-student elected officer. Good-Bye, George

(Fri.?)

11 a.m., Mar. 23 talked with George Dell, Associated Press, and read the prepared statement, about the student meeting -- student representatives meeting with the Board, series of nine faculty meetings, and opening of the administration building.

1:30 p.m., Fri, I mean Mon., Mar. 23, called United Press International and read prepared news release.

2:45 p.m., Monday, Mar. 23, talked with Dave ~~Matthews~~ Matthews, Columbus Dispatch read the release, was ~~prepared~~ prepared

Yes, I read a statement to UPI that President Smith gave me this morning and I'll read it to you real quick and ~~then~~ then I'll go back -- it's not quite right, what you've got. There is going to be a meeting at which students can express their views -- not to the faculty or administration, but to the Board of Trustees ~~and~~ and it's coming up on April 9, but just hang on, I'll read the whole thing. Talked ~~with~~ with Mr. Rizzo and read the statement that was prepared, also talked ~~with~~ a little later, just informally with

4:15 p.m.

END OF TAPE 7

5:55 p.m. Columbus office of Cleveland Plain Dealer, 224-6452
David Hopcraft

Mr. Hopcraft was not in.... I gave him the phone number of Bruce Markgraf at the college and at home, informed the man at the bureau that he was serving as chairman of our communications committee.

Mon., Mar. 23, 9:25 a.m. Marcia Reynolds called from Advocate

Q.

No, it would be very difficult to ~~bell~~ because no surveys have been made or no statistics are being kept on class attendance to my knowledge. Classes have resumed much on the same basis as they were toward the end of last week. It's pretty much at the discretion of the individuals concerned, both faculty and students, whether they will attend or conduct classes/

Q.

Well, the Task Force report some of it has been acted upon already by faculty and is college policy, I think, Marcia. Some has yet to be acted upon. The faculty were in meeting last Tuesday and they had not gotten to the Task Force recommendations yet. Hang on a second, let me get my copy of that. You've seen it, I assume. Do you have a copy? Actions taken, Section 2, page 2, on one for example, we hire....no that has not been done...we haven't hired any black faculty candidates to my knowledge, but we are in negotiation stage with all new faculty, and what they are going to do on announcing them I don't know, but announcing new faculty as they come in...normally, we don't announce them until summer because of, well, problems of getting their credentials and getting the staff firm contracts in--all these things--also because it's closer to when they will be coming, we withhold announcing them and announce them periodically. No. 2 has been done already. The faculty have approved setting aside \$70,000 for black freshmen. No. 3 We are interviewing, we haven't done anything. No. 4 We have 2 black advisers here right now. One is staying on and the other, who was on a one-year contract two years ago and agreed to stay on for an additional year, is leaving to go back to graduates school. So we have replacement ~~xxx~~ spot for David Rice. No. 5 They're working on material and, of course, we had a speaker, for example, last weekend on black studies. No. 6 is being done. No. 7 is being done. These are all continuing things now, it says actions taken... Some of these...we're working on all of these. The only thing that's really specific that has been done new, I would say, would be No. 2, and policy statement No. 3 on black faculty has not been approved yet.

Q.

I don't... the faculty will approve it. I don't think it requires...that requires Trustee action because that's within the context of the Board's opinion, but I really shouldn't say on that. I think probably Dr. Brakeman or the Dean should say, the Dean of the College. They're both in a meeting right now, I know, so I don't know that I would be able to get a hold of them to check, but I can try if you wish.

Q.

Well, I don't think that anybody has any objections to people participating in alternate college per se or attending alternate college sessions. Now, it has been stated, and I think rather clearly, that both faculty members and students have academic obligations and are expected to fulfill those

obligations; and whether they participate in alternate college or not is not really important, they have these other obligations and they are expected to fulfill them. This has been stated rather clearly, I think, particularly in point No. 3 of the Executive Committee statement of last Friday or Saturday. Just a minute, so you have that? And you know what ~~it~~ No. 3 says on that.

Q.

Well, there are several alternatives. There are the alternative, one, of refusing to, or declining to, go to your classes and not accepting these responsibilities; or two, you can go to your classes and you can participate in alternate College both; and there may be some middle ground, some may go to some of their classes and not all of them, and some faculty may not be teaching their classes, but now it's up to those faculty to hold make-up sessions for class time missed, which might be difficult, but that's their own choice.

Q

Not to my knowledge. There are no scheduled sit-ins or anything else other than continuing the activities in the scheduled classes for the alternate college. You're welcome...Good-bye

~~xxxx~~ retyped on page 17

~~xxxx~~ fulfill ~~the~~ obligations and, whether they participate in alternate College or not is not really important, they have these other obligations and they are expected to fulfill them. This has been stated rather clearly, I think, particularly in point No. 3 of the Executive Committee statement of last Friday or ~~Sat~~ Saturday. Just a minute, do you have that? And you know what No. 3 says, on that. Q ~~Well~~ Well, there are several alternatives, there are alternative one of refusing to, or declining to, go to your classes and not accepting these responsibilities, or 2, you can go to your classes and you can participate in alternate college, both, and there may be some middle ground, some may go to some of their classes and not all of them, and some faculty may not be teaching their classes but now it's up to those faculty to hold make-up sessions for ~~xxxx~~ class time missed, which might be difficult but that's their own choice. Q....Not to my knowledge. There are no scheduled sit-ins or anything else other than continuing the activities in the scheduled classes for the alternate college ~~xxxx~~ You're welcome.... Good-bye

Page 18, Tape 8, line 70

David Hopcraft, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Columbus Bureau, called Friday at 9:40

Q. I don't think I can say that it's completely normal. Classes are going on in some areas and some faculty have declined to hold classes but are participating instead in what the students have called the alternate college

Q. I would have no ~~xx~~ idea. You mean, how many faculty are not holding classes? Well, about thirty signed a statement saying they would not hold their classes. Q No, I have no way, I don't know that there is any ~~x~~ way

possible to tell how many students are in the classes that ~~xx~~ are being held or how many classes in number are not being held or are being held, there is just no way a computing this and I don't know of any ~~xxxxxx~~ statistics are being kept on this. Q I can't really say that either, because I am not certain how many there were Friday even. Q. Friday noon, Mar. 27, we go on vacation. Q Well, I don't think the Trustees are going to come to campus until the regularly scheduled meeting, but they want their purpose of the alternate college, as it has been ~~xx~~ described to me, is to get a commitment from the faculty and adminis....well, from the administration and the trustees, from everybody, for full implementation of the black demands and this was.. has not been done. The faculty has adopted a resolution which

say said that the faculty endorsed the black demands with the intention of implementation, however, it is recognized that in the process of implementation that certain of the demands may have to be reformulated and furthermore, certain major ~~xxxx~~ proposals that need programs, those programs will have to come before the faculty for subsequent action. The faculty passed this and the Trustees ~~xxx~~ statement on the black demands makes it fairly clear that there are certain reservations, certain limitations that the college is confronted with. Q.. At this point, I don't know. I think we are going to wait and see what happens this week, but I can't really say. The president has not made a statement; he thinks it is too ~~xxxxxx~~ early to make a statement. How the situation is going to develop today, how many students are going to go back to classes I really don't have any way of knowing.

O.K. Good-bye

~~in~~ in Doane before it was announced that it was being closed, split into two groups and went to Knapp Hall and Fellows Hall. I believe this is part of the schedule to talk with students and request that they not go to classes but attend the Alternative College program that has been set up by the students.

Question about who could answer question about Trustees.

Uh, huh. I'm sorry I can't ~~you~~ help you any more, but I don't know anything about that Trustee report at all. Now where the students got that information I'm not certain, but I haven't any word from the President regarding when the Trustees would be meeting, other than their regularly scheduled meeting. Okay. Uh, huh. END

Call from George Dell, Associated Press, Thursday, Mar. 19, 1970
, well,

Yes, George. No/I'm working at home.

Question about estimate of effect of boycott, buildings closed.

That's rather hard to ~~in~~ gauge now. They've had about (let's see--it's 10 o'clock) ~~minutes~~ two classes, class periods, thus far, ~~hours~~ so I really can't say because I haven't been up campus since about 8:15 p.m. To answer your other question the only thing that is closed to my knowledge at this point is Doane Administration Building, which was closed by order of the president ~~this~~ this morning.

Question about library being closed.

Not to my knowledge

Question about why building was closed

Well, there were several reasons, the most important of which for closing the Administration Bldg. was the security of our employees--the protection of life and limb. Although we didn't know ~~if~~ anything would happen, this is always a possibility so it was done for this reason. The other reason was for the security of the building and the property contained in the building.

Question about

No

Question about boycott

Well, the boycott as I understood it could last ~~an~~ ^{er} could have lasted Wed./Thurs./^{or} or Fri., & so I really don't know except what I've heard. The first report was that they were going to schedule a teach-in. They called it a teach-in rather than a boycott. And this means essentially the difference is that ~~some~~ students are voluntarily choosing not to attend classes, and taking this individual responsibility upon themselves. There was some question about disruption of classes and you know whether this would be possible to do. Some people objected to that. and the Executive Committee issued a statement saying that (I'M sorry). The Executive Committee issued a statement yesterday (The Executive Committee) reminding students of the principles contained in the Statement of Dissent which had been adopted earlier by the University. That includes malicious disruption of academic affairs and things of this nature. So evidently the pitch was to ^{be} made to ^{the} students ~~to~~ not to attend classes as a show of support and that they themselves were making this individual choice. The same goes for teaching faculty. Now if teaching faculty choose not to hold a class, they are obligated to have ~~an~~ a make-up class for time missed.

~~Question about teaching~~

AP continued -- Pg. 3

Question about teach-ins and whether faculty teaching it or not

They have five teach-ins scheduled, and they are also calling it the Alternative College now, which is a substitute for the regular University classes, and I can't say whether any faculty are teaching or not. Some may be participating in dialogue. There are student leaders ~~of~~ these five sections.

Q. about %age of students participating

I can't really estimate what percentage of students are showing up for classes, because I don't know how many students had 8 o'clock classes. There is a lot of question about that. I'm not usually up there at 8 o'clock in the morning. I just couldn't give you any estimate of that at this time.

Q. about meetings

meeting was a
Yes, there were meetings last night. One/mass student meeting. END OF TAPE L18
The other meetings were to plan the various teach-in sessions for today.

Q. about policy on missing classes...

Just a minute, and I'll get a copy of the policy. changed tape...Okay, George.
Then read executive committee memo

TAPE 2 E-19

Q. about whether part of policy on discretion of ind. faculty member was new

No, the part on the ~~discretion~~ discretion of the ind. faculty member is not new. That has been ~~the~~ college policy in a number of other cases--Vietnam Moratorium most recently, I believe.

Q. Isn't that statement new in this case?

Well, the statement is new as of yesterday. It was distributed yesterday to all students and faculty ~~members~~.

Q. about other meetings, sit-in plans, etc.

Well, the mass student meeting broke up into smaller committee meetings, working on specific projects in different areas of the Alternat~~ive~~ University, For example, and plans for a sit-in in the Administration ~~Building~~ Bldg. Well, this was scheduled to be a peaceful sit-in ~~at~~ the Adm. Bldg. today. Some students--a pretty big group of students was there first thing in the morning. ~~The~~ Adm. Bldg. was locked. There was an order--a note rather ~~than~~ on each of the doors that the Bldg. would be closed for the day.

Q. about other sit-ins

No, I don't believe so although there may be students sitting around in academic buildings in the hallways and foyers, for example. I wouldn't say that students wouldn't sit down and be in the buildings.

Q. about was there any violence.

No, violence to my knowledge.

Q. about how long teach-in would last, one day only?

I couldn't guarantee you that it wouldn't last than one day, the teach-in, but I don't know of anything scheduled for tomorrow specifically at this point.

Ques. about was this exam week?

Oh, well. not as a college or university, We don't have any scheduled exams, ~~and~~ each of the faculty members is responsible for conducting his own mid-term exams. Of course, we are nearing the start of spring vacation, so it's quite conceivable that a good number of faculty ~~will~~ would be conducting exams next week. I think some are this week.

I think

Q. when does vacation start, next week?

Right. We start on Fri. noon next week, a week from tomorrow.

Q. about whether president or other spokesmen for adm. were available, who could talk with Well, no because the Adm. Bldg. is closed. I don't know who's up there on campus. now even anymore because I haven't been up there since 8:15, although I'm going back up a little later on.

Comment about keeping him posted.

Right, Right. I didn't know you were with the AP in Columbus. comment again. Okay, ya, I'll call you back. Uh, huh. Goodbye. TAPE 2--ends at 62

Call from Scripps-Howards 10:15

Hello. Yes, sir. Mr. Filler.

Q. about boycott

Yes. A number of students are choosing voluntarily not to attend classes.

Q. about numbers participating

Well, some, and I couldn't give you an estimate on it. The Associated Press just asked me if I could give an estimate and it's kind of difficult to say. I haven't been up campus since 8:15, and at 8:15 some classes were going on, but I really don't know how many students have classes at 8 o'clock. I think more students were up campus at 8 o'clock than normally are, so it's difficult to tell.

Q. about buildings closed

The Administration Bldg. is closed. It was closed by order of the President.

Q. about why bldg. was closed

Well, the primary reason was for the security ~~and~~ of our employees, you know, regarding life and limb. The secondary reason, of course, was the security of the building and the college property contained therein.

Q. about demonstrations

Well, I wouldn't say that there's any demonstration that I've heard about although it's been about an hour and a half since I've been up campus. But there are more students in groups talking on campus than you normally see. And there seems to be a flurry of activity.

Q. about organized program

No, not specifically. They are conducting what they ~~are~~ are calling an Alternative College, and they have five different sessions set up around campus. This supposedly will run from 9 to 4, and you can come and go as you choose, stay for as long or short as you wish, and it's possible even that students who are attending classes can choose to go to ^{hear} some of this discussion and dialogue at times other than their class times. So this is a distinct possibility. These are being held in five areas and ~~being~~ led by student leaders.

Q. about faculty participation as leaders

Yes, to my knowledge (faculty are not leaders of these five areas.) but it will involve some faculty. At least they are hopeful of getting some faculty. Now I haven't ...they are hopeful of having some faculty participate as well in the discussion but the leaders are students.

~~Q. about names of speakers~~

Q. about name, explanation

An Alternative College. In other words, if you support the boycott and don't go to the regular university classes, you have an alternative program which may be beneficial to you.

Q. about whether student leaders were black, white

Oh, yes. That's a little bit tougher question. Just a minute. Let me get my list and ~~MMMM~~ I'd have to look, and I'm not certain that I can tell you. I know ~~MMMM~~ 2 of the students of the five student leaders, and there's ~~s~~ one black and one white. The other three I couldn't say for sure whether they're black or white.

Q. about bl. leaders have been

Yes, I suppose there ~~are~~ several leaders among the black students. Henry Durand has been serving as minister of the organization called the Black Student Union, and the other leader is a Caucasian--Berkeley Freeman seems to be among the leaders, senior from -- B-e-r-k-e-l-e-y Free-man, just like it sounds. Q. Mountainside, N.J. Senior. Q. senior from Cincinnati.

Q. about class attendance

Well, class attendance is a matter of the individual's responsibility. QThe administration thinks ~~intention~~ it's too early to make a statement yet. They're sort of watching the situation. Q. I have no idea. It's too early to tell.

Bye now

about expecting trouble

TAPE 3 E-19 *****

12:40 Thursday, Mar. 19 Call to Tom Weibel, WRFD

Is Tom Weibel there please. I think probably that he called me. This is Chuck Henderson at Denison U.

Q. about Adm. Bldg.

That's correct. The building is closed. Uh, huh.

Q. about situation and boycott of classes

Well, the students are conducting what they are calling an Alternative College, which consists of five different meetings on things ~~in~~ with regard to the black situation on campus--things ~~which~~ the students feel would be of interest and importance to them right at the moment. These students are choosing voluntarily not to attend their classes, and faculty are doing likewise. The Executive Committee of the college issued a statement yesterday which had been previous policy. It says in essence that any faculty member who chooses not to teach his regularly scheduled class may do so but he is responsible for making up those class sessions. Now the students assume the same responsibility when they choose not to attend their classes. The organization of students that has been promoting support of the black student demands has been asking all students to attend these Alternative College sessions. A number have been doing this. I couldn't give you any estimate on how many exactly.

Q.

Well, I can't really speak for the President and his reaction. I think he's trying to understand the situation, and I think it's too early yet to make a statement ~~made~~ on what effect this will have on the college. I think the students have behaved fairly rationally and are doing their best to understand the situation, but still promote what they feel is the right direction.

I don't know ~~know~~ if that answers your question very clearly. Q. about pres. statement. No, he has made a statement yet.

UPI

Q. about whether their information from ~~subcommittee~~ was up-to-date.

Well, I think they're pretty well up to date. The only thing that I would add that I didn't know earlier this morning was the Library was also closed.

Uh, huh. Q. about accuracy of press associations. That's correct; I know what you mean. Okay, fine. Uh, huh. Goodbye.

* *****

CALL FROM George Dell, AP... ~~at~~ 2:20 p.m.

Q. about being up campus...

Yes, I have.

Q. about what was going on.

Well, they're conducting these teach-ins. It's all pretty quiet as far as I can see. I just got back, oh ~~about~~ maybe a half hour ago.

Q. about classes still going.

Yes, some regular classes are still going on. Q. about number attending?

No, I don't have any real estimate on that because the campus... I mean the classes are spread all over everywhere, but... Q. about whether class attendance was ~~MM~~ being hurt. Yes, I ~~suppose~~ think so, but here again I suppose it depends on the subject matter and the kids in these classes. But I wouldn't have any idea really on the way to gauge that.

Q. about numbers of students participating, any surveys?

No, I haven't heard any counts on that at all.

Q. about teachers participating

No... Oh, you mean that we do have some teachers participating. Yes.

Q. about Alt. College and number of classes being presented

Well, there's five areas, and these areas have split up in some cases, but I can't give you an exact breakdown because I don't know that that's been published. They do have a bulletin board up in the Union Bldg. that tells what groups are meeting where at various hours. But that keeps changing. Every time I go up there and look at it, it's different.

Q. about Alt. C. classes

Well, there's five areas of study, and some of those areas are split into different concerns within those areas. So I couldn't tell you exactly how many classes are being conducted or discussions are being held within the five areas. No.

Q. about future

much

No, the students have not talked/with me about any future plans. I really don't know.

Q. about anything else

There's one thing, one point of information ~~MMMM~~ I gave you, which to my knowledge, was correct at the time, and that was -- "That the Library was not closed to my knowledge." Well, it was closed. It was not opened. I found out when I went back up campus/ again. Q. Uh, huh. That's correct. I was not informed of it, but ... Q. I can't be really certain so I'd better say on that--whether the President ordered the building (Library) closed or not.

Q. did Pres. indicate when be reopened. No, sir.

82-Tape 3

Q. about classes tomorrow

I can't really tell you, George, whether there will be classes tomorrow or not, but to my knowledge and as far as I know, there will be classes, probably on the same basis as today. But, of course, if the students don't schedule anything in opposition, I would guess that attendance would pick up. But I don't ~~know~~ know what the ~~many~~ students are going to schedule tomorrow, so until I find that out I can't be very helpful on a prediction on what kind of attendance we're going to have in classes tomorrow.

Q. if Trustees were coming back & when. ly scheduled

Not to my knowledge, other than the regular/Trustee meeting in April.

Q. about when in April Trustees meeting.

I'd have to check. I think it's April 9 & 10. You want to hold on a second. I have a catalog. Gee, I don't think it's listed in the catalog. Wait a minute. Let me see if I can find it. George, I believe the Trustee meeting, regularly scheduled, is April 10 ~~and~~ & 11, Friday and Saturday. I think I'm correct on that. If I'm not, I'll let you know.

Q. about address of Darrell Brown.

Yes, Darrell Brown's address is listed as Curtis East. Now I'm taking that from the directory which was first semester addresses, so he may possibly have moved, but they'll know at the dorm there if he hasn't. Q. about phone number. I think that's correct. Just a second. Okay.

Mar.

CALL BACK TO McKNIGHT, AP, 3:50 p.m. Thursday, ~~APRIL~~ 19

Mr. McKnight, Chuck Henderson, Denison U., Q. Pretty good. Keeping busy.

Call was about possibility of getting photos of black situation. Line 104---120

TAPE 4 - 0-35

Thursday, Mar. 19, call back to Jeff Bert, WOSU 293-7330

Chuck Henderson, Denison U., back. Okay. Got a little time now. I think so. Students have been . . . Oh, I didn't write it out, so it might not be . . . All right. Count to three, okay, one, two, three. Statement--Today/ Denison U. students staged what was called a teach-in or Alternative University in support of the demands of the black students at Denison. This Alternative University consisted of 5 areas of study. Denison students were encouraged to boycott attendance at classes in order to attend the sessions of the Alternative University. Classes were held as scheduled, although some classes were cancelled and attendance at some classes was less than normal because ~~many~~ students choose on their own individual initiative to attend the Alternative U. The students have been trying to determine various ways of supporting the black student demands peacefully. There has been a peaceful sit-in in the administration bldg. this week on Monday. Today the ~~administration~~ bldg. was closed on ^{the} orders of President Joel P. Smith and a scheduled sit-in at the building was consequently cancelled.

Q.

Yes, tomorrow will be a continuation of the programs today with some expansion. They have been using today . . . the services of Armstead Robinson, who is editor "Black Studies in the University" and innovator of Yale's Black Studies program. He's being used as a research (meant to say resource) person, and he is scheduled to be on our campus today and tomorrow for this purpose. You're welcome. Good night

6:20 p.m. Thursday, Mar. 19, Call from Eric Wentworth, Washington Post.

Yes, I do, sir. That's correct, Mr. Wentworth. You're on the Washington Post. Okay, sir.

Q. about forcing of all classes to stop.

Yes, sir. I've been on campus today. I wouldn't say that all the classes were shut down or stopped. A number of classes were conducted but I don't have any statistics on them at this point.

Q. about survey on numbers in class

No, I haven't seen any survey on the situation. I suspect that class attendance was affected in almost all cases. I'd go that far, but I couldn't give an estimate on how much it was affected. Now faculty members had the option, and this was reaffirmed by an Executive Committee statement last night, that if they choose not to hold their classes today they could do so, with the full understanding they would be responsible for making up any class sessions. Now students assume this same responsibility when they choose not to attend classes. /individual

Q. about responsibility for class attendance.

Class attendance is the responsibility of the instructor in the course, and it varies. Q. Some require/ That's correct. and some don't???

Q. is this being called a boycott?

I think so. It's been used, and that's what the students are calling it. They are attending a teach-in or they've called it an Alternative University, which consists of 5 different study areas. They've had a number of sessions today. They also are using the services of Armstead Robinson, spelled out. Right. He's editor of "Black Studies in the University," and he is the man who set up Yale's Black Studies program, I understand. He's a resource personnel on our campus today and tomorrow.

Q. about Robinson

That's correct. Yes, sir. He's speaking tonight in Swasey Chapel. He spoke this afternoon in Huffman Hall. I think he didn't have a firm speaking schedule. He was going to speak to various classes and various groups and sort of play it by ear. This was my understanding -- he had an unstructured schedule, and it's still unstructured, but I guess he's getting a pretty good attendance. I was informed that there were about 750 who attended his talk this afternoon.

Q. about where AU meeting

They're meeting in regular classrooms. And they are scheduling around any other scheduled classes that might be held. They're using classrooms where the professor has chosen not to hold the class. At least this is what they did today. They moved from ~~from that class room where they had been when~~ in at least one instance from that I'm aware of from one classroom where they had been when a class showed up. So they moved to another classroom. We have adequate classroom space, so we're not cramped.

Q. about violence, damage, property loss

To my knowledge there's been no violence and no damage. There's a thing that supposedly represents a bomb that's been hung at the base of the flag pole with a piece of cable that came from somewhere, leading away from the thing. But I don't know where it came from and I haven't heard any reports of property damage. The administration building was shut down today, was closed. Right, by order of President Smith.

Q. about administration not working

Well, I think I was carrying out administrative functions. I must have talked with 20 newsmen today.

Q. about whether Pres. Smith was in town.

I don't know for certain about that, sir. I don't know where President Smith is. The last time I talked with him was early this morning.

Q. -- does Denison have policy on violence

Yes, sir. We have a policy, ~~which~~ if you'd like to hear it. We sent copies of it... It's not too long. I'll get ahold of it for you. Read policy

Q. about how policy adopted--board approved?

No, sir. This policy was approved by the student government, by the faculty, and by the trustees. . . in that order.

Q. when

It seems to me that it was about a year and a half ago, but I wouldn't be absolutely certain about the date. I could find out if you wanted to know.

Q. about demonstrations previously, or is this first.

No, we've had some demonstrations before, but none with any violence associated with them to any degree.

Q. about whether any actions of today would result in disciplinary action.

In my opinion I haven't seen any behavior that I think is going to result in disciplinary problems/ at the moment, but, of course, there's always a possibility that that may occur. This is about as much of an answer as I can give you.

END OF TAPE 4

TAPE 5

Q. about task force composition...have 2 students & 2 faculty resigned?

Well, the task force composition was set up for 7 faculty members and 4 students. The faculty member quota was filled, and only two of the students were ever appointed. Now, the two students did resign, and two of the faculty members did resign. Now that leaves us with no students and five faculty.

Q.

No, sir.

Q. about # of black faculty.

That's correct. We have three faculty members. One is an assistant dean of women who is black. She's adviser to women, and the adviser for all black students is the associate dean of the chapel, who also teaches part-time in black culture. Yes, he's black. He's one of the three.

Q.

That's correct.

Q.

Yes, sir. I was at the faculty meeting. Q. 500 is a little bit of an over-estimate in my opinion, because the aud. seats 302. I've heard estimates of 50/ to 75 faculty remained, and I counted and got 19 or 20. The aud. was filled beyond capacity, but I would say that there was somewhere in the neighborhood of 370 students in there. Now more students would have come in if they could have gotten in, but the oxygen supply was a little thin in there.