

Telephone Conversation Between President John X. Jamrich
and Mrs. Rita A. Scott, Program Director, Education Division,
Michigan Department of Civil Rights, January 8, 1970, 11:30 A. M.

J: Hello.

S: Yes. Mrs. Scott speaking again.

J: Yes.

S: They have me on a clearer line.

J: Good.

S: As I was saying, I was wondering whether you could give us any of the basic information or facts on any action that you are aware of, President Jamrich.

J: Yes. I have the staff in the office at this very moment. We are discussing the current status of the entire situation. There are two streams to the activity and the actions. One is the on-campus consideration of regulation infractions. This is being handled by our Dean of Students staff who have looked into the facts, and they have prepared, or are preparing as a matter of fact, appropriate specific charges to be submitted to individual students and a charge with reference to the Black Students Association as an organization which is registered on campus.

S: Yes.

J: Those are in preparation, and I'm told that they would probably be complete and ready to be presented -- well, I suspect, the beginning of next week. The other stream of activity is through the County Prosecutor's Office, and that's Mr. Quinnell.

S: How do you spell that?

J: Q-u-i-n-n-e-l-l. Mr. Edward Quinnell. He has undertaken this matter and, as I understand it, he has had an investigating agent on campus for this past week meeting with and talking to students who have been invited in to talk with him.

S: Yes.

J: Now, the . . .

- S: Is the prosecutor on campus at the request of the University?
- J: Well, yes, the prosecutor was asked by the University to look into possible criminal charges with reference to the damages and the forced detention of Dr. Niemi in the course of the sit-in on the 17th and 18th. Yes.
- S: OK. That was December 17 and 18.
- J: Yes, December 17, the sit-in began approximately 9:00 in the morning, and it lasted until approximately 3:30 a. m. on December 18.
- S: OK, and now the prosecutor is taking what action at this point?
- J: This, as I understand the information from his office, he has not completed his investigation. So that as to your original question about the warrants, I would conclude from what I know about it that no warrants have yet been prepared. But I think the best answer here is to call Mr. Quinnell personally.
- S: Certainly, we would do that.
- J: Yes.
- S: Do you expect at this time that disciplinary actions from the University in their administrative process will be pursued against the students, or is it too early yet to . . .
- J: Well, the charges which are being prepared by the Dean of Students Office will be submitted to the students. We have an established procedure of hearings and due process judiciary hearings, and these charges will be given to the students, as I say, probably early next week, and the charges will be heard by the Student-Faculty Judiciary which is the standing committee established for this purpose, and the procedures, as I say, are well established and delineated in the Student Code of Conduct which we have.
- S: Yes.
- J: And this will get underway, I think, early next week.
- S: Does your procedure include notification to parents of charges against students?
- J: No, the procedure does not indicate that.

- S: Do you suspect that you will be notifying routinely the parents of these students at the point that decisions are made by the Student-Faculty Judiciary Committee?
- J: Oh, when decisions are made by the Student-Faculty Judiciary, yes. This would be routine.
- S: Routinely notified.
- J: Yes.
- S: All right. How are tensions currently? Do you feel that the campus is rather calm, or do you feel that the students are still rather up tight?
- J: Well, I would judge the situation to be calm at this point, but the reason for the meeting at this moment is that the black students have placed before me a request for complete amnesty, and that's the question which is going to be considered here at this meeting during the next hour.
- S: The Black Students Association.
- J: The black students. The Black Students Association is not a signator to this request. Ninety-two students individually signed this sheet, and one of the black students signed it as a transmitter.
- S: They are, in other words, petitioning your administration for amnesty for those 25 students who occupied the Dean of Students Office.
- J: Yes. That's correct. They are petitioning for complete amnesty.
- S: OK. Now, the Black Students Association is a recognized campus organization at this point, is it not?
- J: Yes. That's correct. It's registered.
- S: Who is the President of that organization currently?
- J: The President of the Black Students Association is Patrick Williams.

S: Patrick Williams. I see. All right. Well, thank you so much for this information. We will be contacting the prosecutor's office too so that we might understand where they are in the investigating process or action. One of the main concerns of the parent that called at our office, of course, was how to make sure that the youngsters, if there were criminal charges, would receive proper representation.

J: Yes.

S: Both at arraignment and in the court because it is a far-away community to reach, and I would hope that she would be aware of this and, if there is anything that your office could do, or even the prosecutor's office would do, so that the parents are very promptly notified and so that legal counsel can be secured in these cases.

J: Yes, we will make certain that the elements of due process and certainly legal counsel will be made certain of. And finally I hope you will feel free to call any time -- I would suggest that our Vice President for Student Affairs is very close to this, Dr. Allan Niemi.

S: Dr. Allan Niemi.

J: Yes.

S: Is that N-E-I-M-I? The spelling?

J: It's N-I-E-M-I.

S: N-I-E-M-I. All right.

J: I before E, even in Finnish names.

S: Fine. We'll do that. Thank you so very much.

J: Yes. You're very welcome, Mrs. Scott. Goodbye.