

Memorandum for the Files  
May 13, 1970

Approximately two o'clock on the morning of May 13 I had a telephone call from a student who identified himself as a black student with a lot of black students meeting with him. The purpose of his call was to ask me whether I knew about the murders in Augusta, Georgia and what I intended to do about it. My response was that I did know about this, and that I had not given much thought as to what I or the University might do.

His response to all of this was that I damn well better do something about it and cancel classes for the rest of the year or else we would regret it in terms of our beautiful buildings -- the Learning Resources, Instructional Facility, and other buildings which would be burned and ruined. That was the end of the telephone call.

Beginning about 2:30, one by one, black students began to gather, and by quarter of three or three o'clock, there were about thirty or forty black students in front of my home. Their request, presented not through any one leader but through sort of a general group of five or six, was that I cancel classes for the rest of the year as a memorial to the blacks killed at Augusta, Georgia. They indicated that their demand was predicated on the fact that we had done the same for white people in the memorial for the Kent State students killed, and they demanded the same kind of treatment -- an equitable treatment for blacks.

I indicated to them that this was a request which would have to be considered, and certainly the cancellation of classes for the whole semester was out of the question. Any cancellation or modification of the schedule is something that would have to be considered by the faculty. A meeting is being called for 10:00 on Wednesday morning, May 13, to consider first of all what the request is and the purpose of the request and then to consider the alternative ways of meeting and providing for the request to the extent that it is felt necessary to do so.

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At about 3:30 in the morning I called the staff members of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission who were at the Holiday Inn. Mr. Wright, Mr. Pearson, and Mr. Strell did come to my home, and they did work with the students and were very helpful.

Between 2:00 a. m. and 6:00 a. m. there were several windows broken, and according to Mr. Lyons there were some bottles of gasoline thrown into one of the buildings.

I called Bill Lyons, and I also called Mr. McNabb to indicate to them that the University will be needing some additional surveillance and assistance during the next several weeks at each of the buildings in order that we can continue to operate the institution and to protect the property of the University and the lives of students.

In arranging for the meeting at ten o'clock, I made several attempts to call Pat Williams at his number, 228-9820. I was not successful. I asked Mrs. Bowden at 8:15 in the morning to call Pat Williams and Minnie Walker to inform them about this meeting.

JXJ:MLA