

NATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL OF THE YMCA

AUXILIARY ASSEMBLY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

291 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

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April 13, 1954

President Francis P. Gaines
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia

Dear President Gaines:

We have watched with interest the movement of many of our State Universities in the South as they have gone through the process of lifting their racial restrictions. As a Christian organization we are anxious to be of service to private Christian colleges in the South (as elsewhere), as they seek to move toward the practical implementation of the basic Christian belief that, all men are brothers under God, and that discrimination on grounds on race creates a serious gap between our belief and our practices.

The Student Movement of the YMCA has for many years sought through persuasion, education and experience to aid students in overcoming racial prejudices. At first we sponsored separate white and Negro regional collegiate conferences in the South. In the midst of transition we developed an interracial conference while still maintaining the white student conferences. With strong student support, we now hold racially integrated student-faculty conferences both in the Southeast region and the Southwest region. We are proud of our progress in this matter, yet humble in that we know that there is much still to be done.

We believe that private Christian colleges like yours are also interested in the removal of racial restrictions and we offer you our services as you contemplate next steps. Through your council we would like to provide more practical resources to Southern Christian colleges. In this regard will you please give us your replies

December 27, 1954
to January 2, 1955

Member Organization of the United Student Christian Council in the U. S. A. and the World's Student Christian Federation

• NATIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY OF THE YMCA & YWCA •

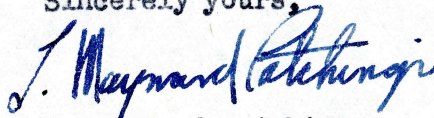
University of Kansas
at Lawrence

to the following questions:

- 1) Have you admitted Negro students to your college?
- 2) Do you desire Negro applications?
- 3) Would you like information on what has happened in formerly all white colleges in the South, which have admitted Negro students?
- 4) Would you desire one of our Secretaries to discuss college racial integration with you or your faculty?
- 5) Would you be interested in a Southeastern conference of Administrators and Deans to discuss how best to go through the transition of lifting a college's racial restrictions?

We will greatly appreciate your personal reply to these questions, as well as any further council or suggestions which you may wish to share.

Sincerely yours,


L. Maynard Catchings

LMC/AG

April 27, 1954

Mr. L. Maynard Catchings
National Student Council of the YMCA
291 Broadway
New York 7, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Catchings:

Thank you for the proffer of helpfulness contained in your letter of April 13.

I assure you that if at any time we need the assistance which you have proposed, I shall get in touch with you.

With best wishes always, I am

Cordially yours,

Francis P. Gaines
President