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Responsible Race Integration at Lindenwood College

John Anthony Brown

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RESPONSIBLE RACIAL INTEGRATION

AT LINDENWOOD COLLEGE

Prepared for the Board of Directors

October 4, 1968

John Anthony Brown, President

Few liberal arts colleges in the United States have been successful in their efforts to bring about an effective program of racial integration. Church-related colleges have perhaps a poorer record on this matter than independent institutions and the public sector. This matter has been called to our attention by many people, particularly by the Commission on Race and Religion of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the Commission on Race and Religion of the Presbyterian Synod of Missouri.

Something over a year ago, in a quiet way, the President of Lindenwood College, after a special meeting with several members of the Board and several Negro guests who had been invited by the President of the Board, laid before his colleagues at the college a proposal to move ahead in a responsible and carefully planned way toward a better level of integration.

THE CURRICULUM AND FACULTY

To bring a sizeable number of Negro students to a college which has not recognized the role of the Negro in our society by adding courses to the curriculum which pertain to that role seemed to us to be a mistake. Therefore, a course in the history of the American Negro was added to the Lindenwood College curriculum in the January term of 1968. The course was highly successful and was taught by Dr. Stanley Caine of the History Department of the College. It is a permanent part of the curriculum of the college. A course in The Economics of Poverty will be taught by Dr. John Moore of the Economics Department this year.

A course in Race and Ethnic Relations was added to the 1968-69 academic year, taught by Associate Professor George Warheit, Acting Chairman of the Sociology Department. Dr. Warheit will also teach an interim term off-campus course entitled Field Research in Urban Social Problems, in Detroit. Dr. Virginia Carpenter was added to the faculty in Psychology in part because of her expertise in the field of adolescent motivation. Perhaps without adequate resources, we undertook to teach a course in African literature during the 1968 interim term. We believe the course was a success. Hopefully it will be offered on an every-other-year basis here at Lindenwood.

Perhaps the most important step that was taken was to deal with the contemporary problems of race relations in a thorough way in the Lindenwood Common Course, which is required of all freshmen.

THE LIBRARY

It was further believed that our library should be strengthened in areas dealing with problems of race, and the Library Committee was requested to give emphasis to the development of material along this line. While additional funds at a sizeable amount were not available, by careful selection of materials we have been able to strengthen our holdings in the areas of study that were added to the curriculum.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Certainly if we were to invite a larger number of Negro students to our college in St. Charles, there ought to be some understanding on the part of the community of this matter. During our summer session, a series of public lectures were given, which attracted a considerable number of people from the St. Charles community and was certainly instrumental in the formation of the first Human Relations Council in St. Charles. The lectures were given by Dr. Stanley Caine

and have been widely praised by responsible St. Charles civic and church leadership.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

During the spring and summer of 1968, the college vigorously sought qualified Negro students in a very concentrated effort directly under the leadership of the Director of Admissions, Mr. Earl Davis. Mr. Davis worked with many groups in recruiting a group of students that we hoped would come close to ten percent of our freshman class. During this experience we sought the assistance of the National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, the Ozark Talent Search, a group known as ABC (A Better Chance) and others. Our efforts were successful, and ten percent of our freshman class are Negro students. These students, in a real sense, have been more carefully selected and more thoroughly evaluated than is our usual custom. We went to them, not offering a present but rather with the view that we needed the diversity, the point of view, the experiences they could share in our classrooms.

COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE

It's felt that these students should have someone on the staff to whom they could turn without reservation, and the college was fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Carole Watson. Mrs. Watson has a master's degree in American Literature from St. Louis University, and was chairman of the Abraham Lincoln High School English Department. She was one of the developers of the special curriculum that made that school a truly unique effort to deal with some of the very toughest cases the disadvantaged present at the high school level. Mrs. Watson is the first Negro appointment to our faculty or staff.

The President of the College appealed to the Ford Foundation for support for Mrs. Watson's salary. He received full support for her salary the first year and a portion of her salary the second and third years. He also asked

for a grant to establish a special tutorial program for these students in the January interim term, and a remedial reading program for the academic year. The Foundation did not respond favorably to these two requests. A proposal was prepared and submitted to the Sears Roebuck Foundation to cover these two matters. The Foundation complimented the college on its program, but said it could not support the reading and tutorial program at Lindenwood without doing it at many other colleges and is not prepared to take that step at this time. The proposals were then prepared for submission to several other sources, and action is anticipated in the near future.

EMERGENCY FUND

Many of these students do not have a great deal of personal expense money. Because of the difficulty of our curriculum and certain inadequacies in their preparation, it is thought unwise to give them excessive self-help work assignments. Therefore, the President of the College set out to raise funds for emergency aid. Members of the faculty of the college have made contributions to this fund. Several individuals in the St. Charles community have heard of this need and have made contributions. A request has been made to several churches long friendly with the college from which we expect a positive answer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Today a further step will be proposed, one that will emphasize our commitment to responsible integration. A man will be nominated for membership on the Board of Directors - a man fully qualified by experience and interest, a distinguished citizen of the District of Columbia, who will bring to our Board an interpretation of the Negro point of view, and will serve as evidence to our Negro students and faculty that our commitment is complete. But we will find him to be more than a symbol of commitment to integration; we will find his years of experience as a lawyer helpful; we will find his understanding of faculty

problems - he has been a professor of law for many years at several institutions - of great assistance to us. With his election we have not completed our task, we have merely rounded out the first phase of a responsible program of racial integration.

October 27, 1960

Mr. William Armstrong
Armstrong, Takadale, Moore,
Carter & Vaughan, Attys.
441 Olive Street
St. Louis, Missouri

Copy

Dear Bill:

Following our recent discussion on the Lindbergh financial situation, I made arrangements with Postman's National Bank to establish a line of credit to be available to Lindbergh from time to time during the year to meet its operating expenses to the amount of \$500,000. We presently have a commitment with Lindbergh for a loan of \$450,000 in connection with our expansion program. This would mean that we might have total borrowings with Postman's amounting to \$950,000. This is with the understanding that the \$500,000 line of credit will be repaid periodically, as tuition funds become available, and the maximum borrowings of \$500,000 would be used only during a period between semesters. This \$500,000 line of credit will also take the place of the \$300,000 that we presently have borrowed at the Mercantile Trust Company, it being understood that this \$300,000 will be repaid to the Mercantile Trust between now and January 1, 1961.

I understand that all three of us who comprise the Finance Committee will be away from St. Louis during the first half of November. In accordance therewith, I have made arrangements with Postman's to make loans up to \$50,000 under each of the above commitments. If there is any demand beyond this amount, they will communicate with Mr. Armstrong's office and satisfactory arrangements will be made to care for the situation until such time as we are able to have a meeting of the Finance Committee the latter part of November. I think all of these provisions are in accordance with the several discussions we have had concerning the matter, and I hope that they meet with your satisfaction.

In making these arrangements with Postman's, it has been with the understanding that we will make them our chief depository