

ATHLETES PROPOSED STATEMENT OF FACTS

Sometime on Thursday, October 16, 1969 a copy of a letter to Mr. William D. Carlson, President of the University of Wyoming, written by Mr. Willie S. Black, Chancellor of the Black Students Alliance, an officially recognized student organization at the University of Wyoming, was delivered to Mr. Lloyd Eaton, Head Coach of the University football team. The letter indicated that the Black Students Alliance opposed "on moral and human grounds" contests with Brigham Young University and that the BSA would protest any such contest including the football game with BYU scheduled for Saturday, October 18, by the wearing of black arm bands.

After football practice on Thursday, October 16, Coach Eaton advised Mr. Joe Williams, a black athlete and a tri-captain of the team, that any wearing of arm bands at football practice or in Saturday's game would not be allowed, and asked him to so inform the other thirteen members of the group of black athletes. At no time Thursday did Coach Eaton forbid the wearing of black arm bands outside of practice and the game, nor did he or any member of his staff discuss the matter individually with the other thirteen members of the group.

On Thursday evening Mr. Joe Williams met with the other members of the group, and conveyed to them the message of this coach. The fourteen athletes decided to seek a meeting with Coach Eaton the next morning to discuss with him what they might or might not do on the practice and playing fields.

Accordingly the entire group of fourteen went to Coach Eaton's office at about 9:30 a.m. on Friday, October 17, well before the

scheduled 11:00 a.m. practice session. Each man was wearing street clothes and a black cloth arm band.

Coach Eaton told them to go to a grandstand in the fieldhouse, which they did. Coach Eaton, accompanied by two of his assistants, then addressed the black athletes in the grandstand. Before any statement by the black athletes he informed them that they were "through", because they were wearing black arm bands and because their coming to him as a group also violated his standing rules. In the course of his statements to them, Coach Eaton made remarks that "they could go back to Negro relief" or that they could play for "Grambling or Morgan State", two almost completely Negro institutions which have achieved a high degree of success in football. He also made remarks to the effect that Mr. Willie S. Black of the BSA had been placed at the University of Wyoming to make trouble.

Having been summarily dismissed and having been told that their athletic scholarships would end with the current semester, the black athletes, without ever having had an opportunity to state or discuss their intentions, left the fieldhouse and presented their grievances to academic officials of the University of Wyoming.