

Statement by W. Robert Parks
President, Iowa State University
June 28, 1968

I have received the June 27 report of the Iowa State Athletic Council addressed to all Cyclone athletes in which it sets forth its conclusions concerning the grievances listed by the black athletes at Iowa State. I want to commend the Council for the thorough, energetic, and open-minded manner in which it has dealt with this difficult assignment. In accepting the report of the Council--the duly constituted governing body, elected by faculty, alumni and students, which sets the policy for Iowa State's intercollegiate athletic programs--I want to make it abundantly clear, as did the Athletic Council, that Iowa State earnestly and sincerely hopes that its black athletes will continue to be a part of this student body. For, not only are the black athletes a significant part of Iowa State's athletic program, but they are also important to this campus as individual students. We are concerned that they do not give up the opportunity for the higher education which their athletic scholarships make possible. Moreover, I do not believe that there are any problems in human relations or communication between groups here at Iowa State which cannot be satisfactorily worked out. Iowa State University, in the months ahead, will work patiently and continuously toward achieving that end.

Iowa State University, over the past several years, has been a national leader in attempting to ensure basic civil rights for all students and staff at this University. In recognition of the fact that, in these troubled and rapidly changing times, problems in human relationships, frictions, and misunderstandings are continuously arising, this University, in 1963, established a joint faculty-student Human Relations Committee, as a permanent body with a continuing responsibility for investigating, on a campus-wide basis, all possibilities of discriminatory treatment in all areas and sectors of university life.

Today, therefore, I feel that it is in the best interest of the University and the welfare of all our students and staff that I ask this Committee (under the chairmanship of Professor Richard Herrnstadt) not only to continue to pursue its on-going function of investigating any allegations of discriminatory

treatment on a total campus basis, but also to take on the more positive job of building a University-wide educational program whose purpose is to develop better understanding and greater human sympathy among the various groups who together compose our University community.