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Statement by Head Football Coach John Majors

August 7, 1968

As the new head football coach at Iowa State, and one whose name was not involved in the Black Student Organization discussions during the summer, I have refrained from comment.

Instead, I have devoted my total energies to staff and player recruitment in ways which I believe will build and strengthen Iowa State football prospects. That is my job.

Now that the Athletic Council has made its final comment, and the August 1 deadline has passed, I want to make my position clear.

First, I have recommended the appointment of Mr. Ollie Keller of Memphis, Tennessee, as the offensive backfield coach on my staff. Mr. Keller is white. The facts which dictated this decision are these:

I had started my negotiations with Mr. Keller weeks ago. Hiring an assistant coach is a long and time-consuming assignment. My time for the search had been relatively limited. It is my conviction, considering the responsibility the Athletic Council placed upon me, that I could not, in fairness to our program, do other than recommend Mr. Keller for this position on my staff. I know him as a highly competent coach who will fill a particular need in our program.

Secondly, I was naturally aware during most of the time of my negotiations with Mr. Keller, of the interest in adding a black coach to the Iowa State staff. On that subject I want to say that I think the addition of a

black coach on my staff would be desirable. If I could have found a black coach meeting our particular needs in the time available, I would have so recommended to the Athletic Council. It is my desire to build a progressive program at Iowa State. I feel that the addition of a black coach will be a step in this direction.

I will seek a black coach and it will be my intention to fill this position during the coming school year. I will do this not as a part of any "deal" to entice the black athletes to remain at Iowa State. As a matter of fact, virtually all of our black football players have already indicated to me that they intend to be on the squad this fall. Nor will I seek to add a black coach as a response to any coercion or threat of boycott. I will seek a black assistant coach because I, myself, honestly and sincerely believe that a qualified black coach would be a valuable addition to our football program.