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Robinson: 'I don't expect cooperation'

The Council on Student Life will keep pushing for non-discrimination in University organizations although the black walk-out last week "demonstrated clearly that they aren't interested in joining fraternities and sororities," according to Prof. John W. Robinson, CSL chairman.

"I wish we could talk to each other, but I understand why they walked out," Robinson said. He was referring to the 20 Afro-American Collegiate Society (AACS) members who left the CSL meeting last week along with two black CSL student members.

"They've been seriously maltreated for a long time, so I don't expect them to cooperate," Robinson continued.

He said he wasn't "terribly optimistic" about making much progress "because the problem is so difficult. The solution lies in education." CSL alone "can't do all that much," the chairman said. "But we can get things moving."

This is the first time in six years that racism has been publicly discussed Robinson explained. The Regents 1963 policy statement banned discriminatory practices in the selection of members in University organizations. Not much has happened since then, he added.



John Robinson

CSL member Walt Strong, an administrator in the student affairs office, said he hopes his resolution concerning alleged Greek discrimination will be considered by the CSL Tuesday. That meeting will extend the discussion of discrimination at the University to other campus areas besides the Greek system, Strong said.

He said his proposal is aimed at more than the black-white issue. "It gets at whether this University is going ahead or going to keep on being hypocritical."

Strong said the AACS students left last week's meeting "because they are fed-up with hypocrisy on campus and with the statements of the IFC president who said he had no solutions. No one has any solutions when the chips are down."

University discrimination is beyond debate and up to University policy, Strong continued. He said his proposal wasn't intended to encourage blacks to join Greek houses.

"You can't blame blacks for not wanting to join fraternities and sororities," Strong said. "When something is unjust, even if you don't want to have anything to do with it, you want to change it."

As students protest

Zink sentenced to prison

About 150 demonstrators stood silently outside the U.S. post office building Friday while Larry Zink, a former University of Nebraska student, was sentenced to a maximum of four years imprisonment for burning his draft card.

The quiet group of protestors carried signs and listened to the people who spoke about the war and the draft.

Zink was sentenced under the Federal Youth Corrections Act, which means he will be able to apply for release at anytime after starting to serve his sentence.

A major in electrical engineering at McCook Junior College, the 23-year-old Zink dropped out of school during his senior year. He burned his draft card and classification papers before about 200 people

during a Hyde Park session in the Nebraska Union Feb. 13, 1969.

Some of the signs at the demonstration read: "End Conscription Now;" "Burn Paper, Not People;" and "Set Freedom Free — Repeal the Draft."

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Van Pelt denied Zink's request to be placed on probation. "I think it would be improper if you were given a sentence to escape service while some other boy from your community serves in," the judge said.

In his own defense, Zink said that it is "such a waste for myself to spend some years in prison when there is a possibility I could do some good in this society."

The Rev. R. H. Powell, pastor of the Christ Temple

Mission began the demonstration with a prayer.

Those opposed to war and conscription must redouble their efforts to make this society an open one, said Ron Kurtenbach, a graduate student in English.

"Larry's commitment is a great one, and at times I envy him. I am a conscientious objector, but maybe I should have gone to jail too," he said.

Kurtenbach also asked those gathered to help fight the hopelessness and cynicism in society. "We feel desperate sometimes, but we've got to continue."

Jim Riordan labeled the draft and the war a waste of people and a crime against humanity.

"It's sickening to watch people go to jail and rot for nothing," he said.



Larry Zink