

Mr. Dowdy. And two years ago you did not let them do this? In other words, they had to meet requirements *before* they became probationary?

Dr. Carroll. Yes, sir. They had to meet requirements before they became probationary two years ago.

Mr. Dowdy. How many teachers were made probationary in this two-year period who did not meet the former requirement?

Dr. Carroll. I thought 1,200 to 1,400, and I could get that accurately for the record, but it was in that bracket.

Mr. Dowdy. I think that is close enough. There is one question that I had. I am wondering who was responsible for the invitation to Stokely Carmichael to lecture—and I use the word “lecture” with some apprehension because I doubt that it is a proper word—at Western High School a few months ago?

Dr. Carroll. Well, no one issued an invitation, as I understand it, and I am going by what I heard in some staff meetings and by memory, but I think I am correct on this. The request was made to the principal by either students—I believe they were students in the school that they would like to hear Stokely Carmichael. We do bring in speakers from all ranges of opinion and they do meet with students.

Mr. Dowdy. Even a troublemaker, one who is liable to inflame the students?

Dr. Carroll. Well, I think you might be interested in the results of this. We have a choice here of a group of students—and there is a movement and actually an organization of students by black power people underway at the present time—if a student comes up and says, “We would like to have this man speak as you let other people speak before the students,” and you turn them down or the principal—and the principal is the person we allow to make this choice—then, that man can meet on the street or he can meet in a house or someplace else, and the schools have kept him out.

The story I get—and I think I get it properly—is that when Mr. Carmichael walks into our school and stands before our students, he comes in under the rules of the game which we play, which means he has to make his statements correctly. He has to answer questions from the students. As a matter of fact, the evidence is that he got a pretty hard time from one of the students. One girl got up and said, “Just what makes you think you can represent me, Mr. Carmichael?” He had a hard time. He has not applied in too many schools since his visit. The question of what is proper open discussion and who is able to speak and the ideas of intellectual freedom and to have students to have contact with a variety of ideas in American life, is a serious one, but we feel that we have to treat students as if they do have some maturity and judgment.

All we ask when people come in and talk to our students is that they abide by the rules. They answer the questions and they open themselves up to this scrutiny. I do not feel from the reports we have got that there has been any loss and possibly strength in the student maturity which appear daily in the newspapers all over. We felt that this was a necessary and proper action.

Mr. Dowdy. Not that I would approve, by any means, but would you allow somebody from the Ku Klux Klan or the American Nazi Party to come into the schools and “lecture”?