

## Alumni Voice Opinions: Emory's Racial Conflicts

At a dinner session Wednesday, August 13th, 1969, a committee of seven alumni presented for debate and approval to seventy alumni a statement against "anyone who unlawfully interferes with the rights of others." The statement was approved and represents the opinion of 27,000 Emory alumni.

The resolution states: "The Alumni Council of Emory University has taken note of events occurring on the campus May 25 through May 28, 1969. Because of the concern which alumni have for the future of Emory, the council feels obligated to state what it believes to be the general reaction of Emory alumni to these events."

"Emory alumni are opposed to discrimination in any form and favor the elimination of discrimination of every kind and character. The Alumni Association supports the right of lawful dissent so that the views of any element of the University can be presented and emphasized. The maintenance of these principles is important to the future of the University."

Mr. Walter Davis, Director of Alumni Affairs, stated that the alumni thought it would be helpful if they issued a statement backing the Administration, Board of

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Trustees and the action they took. He stated that primary consideration in writing the statement was given to giving moral support to the Administration, not to the students or any group within the student body.

The statement went on to say, "Just as important is the preservation of the legal rights of all students and faculties of the University and, particularly, of the rights of students to learn and the rights of faculties to teach. These rights cannot be preserved if access to the facilities of the University is unlawfully impeded and if disruption of the orderly process of the University is allowed...."

"We have reviewed these events. We believe the temperate response of President Atwood was justified, and we approve the same. We are gratified that an amicable solution was reached. We are also firmly convinced that unlawful acts encroaching on the rights of others cannot be tolerated. Furthermore, we consider the Turstees [[Trustees]] and the Administration responsible for the maintenance of good order on the campus. Anyone who unlawfully interferes with the rights of others and the pursuit of truth, should lose his right and privilege to be associated with the University. If the protection of the University or the rights of the students requires an appeal to the civil or law enforcement agencies, who believe that such agencies should be utilized."