

NEGRO EDUCATORS IN PLEA TO NIXON

15 College Presidents Tell
Him His Policies Bring
Anger and Frustration
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By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.
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WASHINGTON, May 20—Fifteen presidents of predominantly black colleges and universities told President Nixon today that his policies had led to "anger, outrage and frustration" among the nation's Negroes.

After an unusually long session with the President in his Oval Office, the group emerged to express the conviction that Mr. Nixon had "gotten the message" and the hope that his words and deeds would soon reflect a greater understanding of black problems.

Both a White House spokesman and the leader of the group, Dr. Hermna Branson of Wilberforce University, said that Mr. Nixon had made no "specific promises."

But they seemed to feel that the President would take concrete action to ease what they called "the disenchantment of blacks, especially black youth, with our society and with the Federal Government."

The group's sentiments were summarized by the president of Morgan State College of Baltimore, Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, who told reporters at a news conference at the Washington Hilton Hotel:

"I have hope and confidence. There is little in the historical record which would lead to this

Continued on Page 24, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

conclusion, and yet, as a black and as an American, I must believe—if I believe in this nation—I must believe that it will move forward, and that it will move forward under the President of the United States. I can take no other position than that."

The 15 men representing the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, had requested a session with the President after the slaying of Negroes in Augusta, Ga., and at Jackson State College in Mississippi.

Dr. Branson opened the meeting by reading a statement to the President. It said the black community was suffering from growing alienation and despair caused not only by "long-standing conditions" but also by recent policies and actions of the Nixon administration.

"This feeling is also engendered," the statement said, "by the policies and practices of your Administration: the 'Southern strategy' which leads to the conclusion that blacks are dispensable; the neglect of urban problems; insufficient support of education, especially of schools and colleges attended largely by blacks; your nomination of Justices to the Supreme Court; your hesitancy to support strong measures to assure the voting rights of black citizens; your failure to use your great moral influence to bring the people of this great nation together.

"Added to this is the tone of your Administration as exemplified by the statements of the Vice President and the Attorney General with resultant fears of repression; by statements by members of your administration of 'benign neglect' and of 'law and order' without justice."



United Press International

Dr. Herman Branson, right, president of Wilberforce University, reports on meeting of educators with President Nixon. With him at news session are Dr. Hugh M. Gloster of Morehouse College, left; Dr. James E. Cheek of Howard University, handkerchief to face.

The President apparently listened without comment to the statement and then began a long discussion that was scheduled to last for 45 minutes and instead went on for 2 hours and 10 minutes.

He was said to have listened carefully to their demands—including requests for a nationally televised Presidential message reaffirming Federal protection of Negroes and Negro rights; the appointment of a black Deputy Attorney General, and more funds for

Federal programs aimed at strengthening the black community.

The other men who attended the meeting were Dr. James E. Cheek, president of Howard University here; Dr. Milton Curry, president of Bishop College in Dallas; Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy, president of North Carolina A. & T. State University; Dr. Bernard W. Harleston, acting president of Lincoln University in Oxford, Pa.; Dr. James Lawson, president of Fisk University in Nashville; Dr. Herman Long, president of Talladega College,

Talladega, Ala.; Dr. M. Maceo Nance, president of South Carolina State College in Orangeburg; Dr. G. Leon Netterville, president of Southern University in Baton Rouge; Dr. Benjamin Perry, president of Florida A. & M. University in Tallahassee; Dr. Llloyd Elam, president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville; Dr. Hugh Gloster, president of Morehouse College in Atlanta; Dr. J. Louis Stokes, president of Utica Junior College in Utica, Miss.; and Dr. John Peoples, president of Jackson State.