

# Negro on Campus Panel Seeks to Prevent Killings

By ROBERT REINHOLD JUN 15 1970  
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CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 14—The youngest member of President Nixon's new commission on campus unrest is half black, one-quarter Filipino and one-quarter Chinese, has sharp words about the Nixon Administration and feels he has a "solemn responsibility" to prevent further deaths on college campuses.

Joseph Rhodes Jr., 22 years old, was one of nine persons named to the commission by the President yesterday. Creation of the commission, which is to explore the causes and consequences of campus unrest and recommend ways of assuring peaceful dissent, is viewed as one indication of Administration concern over potential conflict on campuses next fall.

"I'll do anything—even talk to the devil—if I can stop people from being killed," Mr. Rhodes, a confident, soft-spoken man who holds a coveted place as a junior fellow at Harvard, said in an interview today. "If somebody gets killed next year I'll feel responsible."

According to some of his contemporaries, the devil is precisely whom Mr. Rhodes has been talking to over the last

two years during which he has maintained a liaison with the White House. But he feels it is this contact that places a special responsibility on him.

"As long as these guys [White House officials] keep talking to me, I ought to be shot if I don't use the opportunity," he said in his cluttered room at Adams House at Harvard. "I've got an avenue to vent my protest. But I feel these kids are right and we ought to do everything needed to protect them and the peo-

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ple who have to protect them."

Mr. Rhodes, who wears a small, neat mustache that curves over the sides of his mouth and who has relatively short hair, is the product of Pittsburgh's black slum. He calls himself "sociologically black" despite the fact that his father, a black steel worker, married a woman he met in the Philippines during the war.

He lives amid Coke bottles, orange juice containers, dirty laundry and hundreds of books in a small dormitory suite at Harvard, where today he puffed on his pipe and discussed his plans for the new commission.

He was picked for the job by John D. Ehrlichman, the President's special assistant for domestic programs, with whom Mr. Rhodes has been in touch since the early days of the Nixon Administration when he was student president at the California Institute of Technology.

This relationship, he acknowledges, has caused his friends to accuse him of being a "running dog lackey of the Administration," but he believes he nevertheless had the opportunity to "do something very important" by bringing the student view before the Administration.

"The kids have got to feel someone has the power to really investigate the grave charges being brought against the Government," he said, referring to suggestions that the Nixon Administration has provoked campus violence. "We have a crucial responsibility."

"I'm really worried about our Administration's attitude," he said, adding that he was "so unimpressed with both parties" that he had not become involved politically. He hopes the commission will have achieved three main things by September:

¶An accurate, clear picture of what happened at Kent State University, where four students died, and at Jackson State College, where two died, and to what extent national policy contributed to the deaths.

¶A feeling that the commission listened to young people.

¶Clear rules as to the use of deadly force in campus disorders "so that a kid does not feel he is going to get shot if he goes out and waves a flag."

"My responsibility is not to the President, but to the people," he said, slumping into a heavy brown leather chair and dangling one leg over the arm.

"I have a solemn responsi-

bility to find out what is going on," he continued. "That's what people want to know. When parents send their kids on campus they wonder whether they will get killed. What do you do so those parents can sleep at night?"

"I'm scared out of my mind—this country is getting to be a terrifying place to live in," he said.

"I'd like to see us stop killing each other," Mr. Rhodes said, gazing through black-rimmed glasses around his poster-covered walls. "There is no question that what we are seeing is a social revolution. If it costs status, power and position, that's O.K. But if it costs lives, I don't like that."

## 'Who Gave What Orders'

"One of the things I want to try to figure out is who gave what orders to send police on campus and were they thinking about 'campus bums' when they pulled the trigger," Mr. Rhodes said in a reference to Mr. Nixon's remark about some campus dissenters. "If the President's and Vice President's statements are killing people, I want to know that."

Mr. Rhodes has never himself taken part in a student demonstration, but he has witnessed many. During the "people's park" demonstrations at Berkeley last year, he kept the White House posted on developments and ran around trying to prevent violence.

He said he had long tried to get the Government to act on the student situation in California, where, he said, Gov. Ronald Reagan was "bent on killing people for his own political gain."

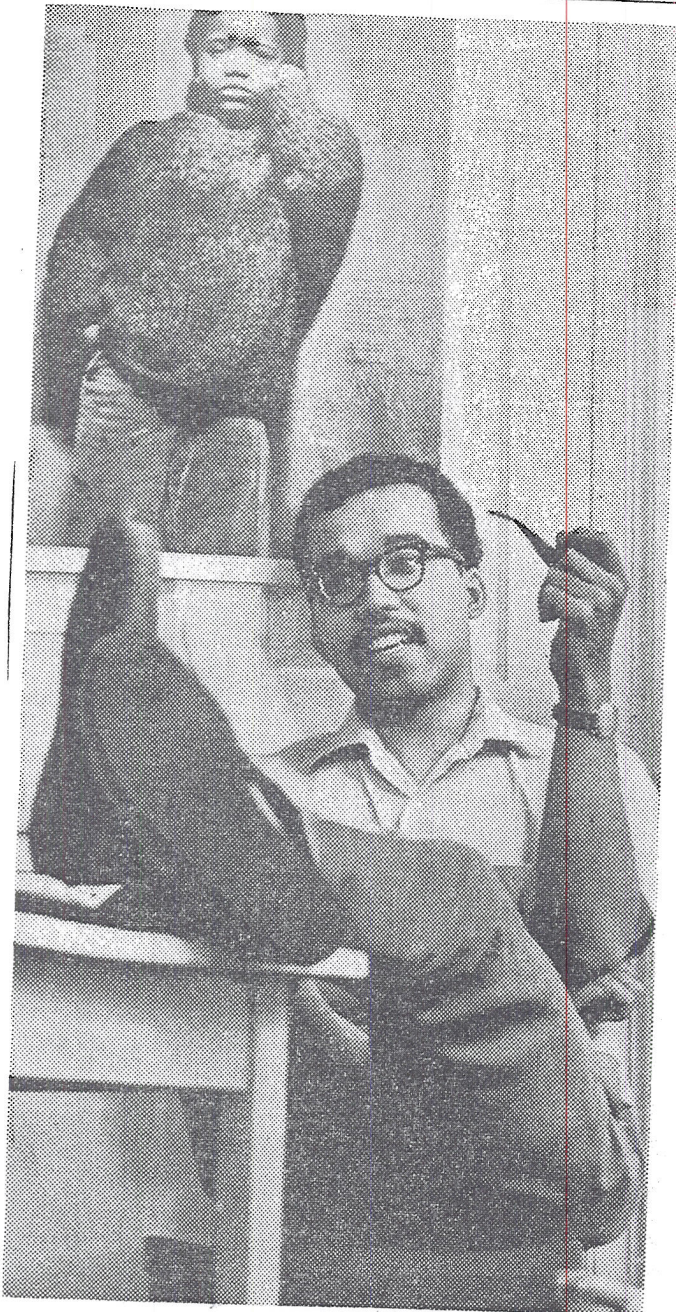
Mr. Rhodes is a versatile young man. He was a line-backer on the Caltech football team and plays the violin.

He has served as consultant to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and the Commissioner of Education over the last two years and runs a special educational project for the Ford Foundation at the and South Carolina.

While at Caltech, he was credited with spearheading campus reform as the student president. He was named "Citizen of the Month" by the City of Pasadena, where he was frequently stopped by local policemen wanting to know what he was doing near the university.

He spent three years majoring in physics, but switched to history. "There is a very small pool of black talent," he says, "and anyone who has it must put it where it is most useful."

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Joyce Dopkeen for The New York Times

**ON CAMPUS STUDY PANEL: Joseph Rhodes Jr. in his apartment yesterday at Harvard, where he is junior fellow.**