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SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
San Jose, California

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STATEMENT BY TOMMIE SMITH, SJS TRACK ATHLETE

"During the past few weeks I have received countless letters regarding my views on various racial issues, particularly the possible boycott by Black athletes of the Olympic Games and the question of discrimination encountered in athletics.

Because my statements have been misinterpreted during this period, I feel that it is necessary to make a clarifying statement.

First, concerning the Olympic Games, I have not made any precise open appeals to Black athletes to boycott the Games. I, as an individual, cannot tell another Black competitor that it is his duty to forget a goal he has sought for himself in this field.

The question of boycotting the Games has been in the minds of many Black athletes since it was suggested by Dick Gregory prior to the 1960 Games. In September during the 1967 World University Games at Tokyo, the press chose to ask me about the possibility of boycott.

My conception of the greatest amateur athletic achievement is to win a Gold medal in the Olympic Games. From now until the Games, the events which occur in our society will probably influence the decision of many Black athletes.

Hopefully, a boycott of the Games never will be needed to bring about necessary changes in our country. But, if a boycott is deemed appropriate, then I believe most of the Black athletes will act in unison.

Another area of recent attention is discrimination encountered in athletics. Recent newspaper articles charged me with saying that I encountered hypocritical behavior by White athletes. These charges are erroneous. What I did say was that many non-athletes are hypocritical. Athletics is one of the few fields in which a Black man is treated as an equal by his peers."

There has been considerable discussion about the possibility of a Negro boycott of the 1968 Olympic Games. It began as the result of a comment by Tommie Smith in Tokyo during the World Student Games, Sept. . On that occasion, he was asked about conditions for his race in the US

Why should Tommie Smith and Lee Evans feel that boycotting the 1968 Olympics, as Negroes,

What could Tommie Smith and Lee Evans feel

You have no doubt asked yourself, "What could Tommie Smith and Lee Evans feel so strongly about that they would consider sacrificing opportunities to win up to two medals a piece in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico

There's a question that seems to be on the tips of the tongues of many sportsmen these days that ~~goes something like,~~ in essence goes something like, "What could Tommie Smith and Lee Evans, American Negroes, feel so strongly about that they would considering sacrificing opportunities to win up to two gold medals a piece during the 1968 Olympics?" The motivation each man feels in asking this question may vary greatly, ~~from~~ ranging from extremes of nationalist ~~concern~~ concern that the US would not be at full strength to a sociological inquiry *as to what Negroes would benefit by such an act*

He has repeatedly denied that he has advocated or is leading a movement in this direction. In fact, both Jammie and Lee have stated that there is only minimal chance that a boycott would actually transpire in October of 1968. and affirmed their intense desire to participate in these Games. Reams of copy has been devoted to the possibility of such a boycott, <sup>much of it used on wrong information</sup> but little of it has dealt with the question of why ~~the Negroes~~ the Blacks would consider sacrificing an opportunity to compete in the world's most important athletic event that many have ~~spent years~~ <sup>devoted</sup> countless hours striving to reach.

These are the opinions of two Negroes who through personal insight, education and athletic achievement ~~have~~ <sup>and would have</sup> become aware of the discrimination ~~felt by~~ <sup>and are</sup> their people and who ~~feel committed~~ <sup>are motivated</sup> problems faced by the US Black people and who ~~would~~ <sup>are</sup> sacrifice their ~~own~~ <sup>motivated</sup> prepared to responsibility of sacrificing their own personal achievement ~~in order to foster~~ <sup>you end</sup> ~~these are~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~representative of many~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~significant~~ <sup>are</sup>

~~the event~~ <sup>for what</sup> for a cause ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> they believe would aid in the course of racial equality.

As two non-militant, non-extremist Negroes <sup>perhaps</sup> ~~perhaps~~ ~~at present~~ <sup>resentment and</sup> their opinion they are the feeling of ~~many~~ dissatisfaction typical of many of their race. As two prominent Negro athletes, their opinions about the possibility and effectiveness of a boycott do not necessarily represent the opinions of other Olympic hopefuls - or even themselves.

(not necessarily an athletic boycott)

Both Tommie and Lee feel there is only minimal chance that such a boycott would actually transpire but as long as it ~~has~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~being~~ considered and since there is

~~So,~~

~~press~~

Passmen the world over rushed to their typewriters to picture Tommie as a militant leader, <sup>often</sup> strongly criticizing the merits of a boycott on the ~~basis of misinformation~~

Do you think that Negroes and other minority groups <sup>in other countries</sup> should use the boycott tactic as well as US Negroes? If not, why just US Negroes?

↗ Wouldn't the establishment and the average ~~white~~ man be alienated rather than ~~permanently~~ reconciled by a boycott? After all, many would liken it to an act of treason or sabotage to US Olympic success? ↙

WHAT WILL IT COST YOU?

WHY WOULD YOU PAY THAT PRICE?

Send Jommie & Lee  
copies of the photos

Jommie

729 Munken #3

San Jose, Calif.

by Dick Drake

On Sept. 3 during this year's World Student Games in Tokyo, a Japanese reporter asked Tommie Smith, "In the United States, are the Negroes now equal to the whites in the way they are treated?" His obvious answer was, "No". The American Negro sprinter was then asked, "What ~~about~~ about the possibility of (US) Negroes boycotting the 1968 Olympics?", a question probably prompted by comedian Dick Gregory's request--made at least partially in deference to the stripping of Muhamed Ali's world heavy weight boxing title--that such an act be considered by Olympic prospects. Tommie's reply was, "Depending upon the situation, you cannot rule out the possibility that we (US) Negro athletes might boycott the Olympic Games."

about

This was the first occasion that Tommie Smith had been asked to reflect upon his thoughts concerning a boycott--either publicly or privately. The only previous publicly circulated statement on the boycott question by any American Black track and field athlete came from Ralph Boston, who, while he expressed a belief that it would not serve any purpose, did not categorically deny the possibility of such a development.

black

~~Tommie Smith's most prolific world record holder said nothing more on that occasion during any subsequent interview to imply that he, Tommie Smith, would be leading this boycott.~~

~~The world's most prolific global world~~

The world's most prolific global record holder has since denied that he is actively leading or advocating a boycott and has rebuked the idea that any outside individual or group ~~with~~ the Black ranks is behind the idea. Tommie has affirmed that any withdrawal by Negro athletes from the Mexico Olympics would primarily come as a result of discussions among the athletes themselves.

from the  
has  
approached  
him

The whole matter was further blown out of proportion when it was learned that Tommie and teammate Lee Evans were members of the executive committee for the United Black Students for Action (UBSA) at San Jose State, whose chapter sought for equality in housing, membership in social groups and in athletics during the first week of school this fall.

~~Pressmen the world over rushed to their typewriters to picture Tommie as a militant Negro leader or stooge for extremist Black groups and promptly scorned the merits of a boycott.~~

Pressmen the world over rushed to their typewriters to picture Tommie as a militant Negro leader or as an athletic stooge for extremist Black groups and promptly scorned the merits of a boycott. What he has said, in effect, is two-fold: (1) I am concerned about the problems facing my race here and now, and the Negro athletes might conclude that boycotting the Olympics would be an effectual tool in our battle for racial equality. No one at this stage knows whether there will be a boycott, but both Tommie and Lee have stated that there is only minimal chance that it would actually transpire. Talk to them, and you'll learn that their desire to participate in these Games is intense. They would have perhaps more to gain by winning a gold medal than the next white guy.

(2) negro

~~what is it that they would feel so strongly about that they would sacrifice personal glory for~~

~~The next logical question is: what is it that they feel so strongly about that they would sacrifice personal glory~~

And so you must come to the question, what is it that they feel so strongly about that they would sacrifice considerable personal glory. Reams of copy has been devoted to the possibility of such a boycott--and much of it based on misinformation--but little of it has dealt with the question of WHY the Blacks would forfeit an opportunity to compete in the world's most important athletic event that many of them have already devoted countless hours striving to reach.

have

Thus, I invited Tommie and Lee to my apartment to express into an unbiased taperecorder their views through a series of questions which I had hoped



# Tom, Lee Talk on Boycott

by Dick Drake

On Sept. 3 during the World Student Games in Tokyo, a Japanese reporter asked Tommie Smith, "In the United States, are the Negroes now equal to the whites in the way they are treated?" His obvious answer was, "No". The American Negro sprinter was then asked, "What about the possibility of (US) Negroes boycotting the 1968 Olympics?", a question possibly prompted by Comedian Dick Gregory's request that such an act be considered--at least partially in deference to the stripping of Muhamed Ali's world boxing heavy weight title. Tommie's reply was, "Depending upon the situation, you cannot rule out the possibility that we (US) Negro athletes might boycott the Olympic Games."

The only comment to have been circulated on the boycott question prior to this occasion by any American Negro track and field athlete was proffered by Ralph Boston, who, while he expressed a belief that it would not serve any purpose, did not categorically deny the possibility of such a development.

Reams of copy has been written and published about the possibility of a boycott, most of it critical of such a move, some of it inaccurately, and virtually all of it on the assumption that Tommie had advocated such a move--a fact repeatedly denied by the San Jose State multi-world sprint record holder. But little of it has dealt with the question of Why the Negroes would consider sacrificing an opportunity not only to compete in the world's most important athletic event but of winning a gold medal which they may have already spent countless hours striving for.

The whole matter drew even more attention when it was learned that Tommie and teammate Lee Evans were members of the executive committee for the United Black Students for Action (UBSA) at San Jose State, which sought for equality in housing, membership in social groups and in athletics--all in the first week school opened this fall.

Tape recorder at hand, I interviewed Tommie and Lee--seeking to give them an opportunity to state their position with relatively little editorial structuring and

Nothing more worth  
less was  
said to  
imply that  
Tommie,  
would be  
leading a  
boycott.

But pressmen the world ~~wide~~ clamored out  
reams of copy as the result of Tommie's  
comments on the possibility of a boycott,  
most of it critical of such a move  
some of it inaccurately, & virtually  
all of it on the assumption that Tommie  
had advocated and was leading ~~such~~  
a movement in this direction--a fact  
repeatedly denied by the San Jose State  
multi-world record holder.

This was the first occasion he had been asked to reflect upon his ~~position~~ thoughts on the matter--~~by anyone~~ *either publicly or privately*

by Dick Drake

On Sept. 3 of this year during the World Student Games in Tokyo, a Japanese reporter asked Tommie Smith, "In the United States, are the Negroes now equal to the whites in the way they are treated?" His obvious answer was, "No". The American Negro sprinter was then asked, "What about the possibility of (US) Negroes boycotting the 1968 Olympics?", a question possibly prompted by comedian Dick Gregory's request--made at least partially in deference to the stripping of Muhamed Ali's world heavy weight boxing title--that such an act be considered by Olympic prospects. Tommie's reply was, "Depending upon the situation, you cannot rule out the possibility that we (US) Negro athletes might boycott the Olympic Games." This was the first occasion that he gave the subject serious consideration.

He said nothing more on that occasion or during any subsequent interview to imply that he, Tommie Smith, would be leading a boycott. His comments were misinterpreted to the extent ~~any~~ group or individual within the Black ranks had approached him with this request, and Tommie has since made it clear that any withdrawal by Negro athletes from the Mexico Olympics would primarily come as a result of discussions among the athletes themselves. The only comment to have been circulated on the boycott question prior to this occasion by any American Black track and field athlete was proffered by Ralph Boston, who, while he expressed a belief that it would not serve any purpose, did not categorically deny the possibility of such a development.

*Not same*

The whole matter was blown further out of proportion when it was learned that Tommie and teammate Lee Evans were members of the executive committee for the United Black Students for Action (UBSA) at San Jose State, whose chapter sought for equality in housing, membership in social groups and in athletics during the first week of school this fall.

Pressmen the world over rushed to their typewriters to picture Tommie as a militant Negro leader, often strongly criticizing the merits of a boycott. The most prolific world record holder in track and field today has repeatedly denied that he has advocated or is leading a movement in this direction. He has expressed concern about the problems facing his people here and now, and that the athletes might conclude that boycotting the Olympics would be an effectual tool in their battle for racial equality. No one can definitely say that there will be a boycott, and in fact, both Tommie and Lee have stated that there is only minimal chance that it would actually transpire and have affirmed their intense desire to participate in these Games. Reams of copy has been devoted to the possibility of such a boycott--much of it based on misinformation--but little of it has dealt with the question of WHY the Blacks would consider sacrificing an opportunity to compete in the world's most important athletic event that many of them have already devoted countless hours striving to reach.

repeatedly

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Thus, I invited Tommie and Lee to my partment to express ~~their views~~ ~~through a series of~~ into an unbiased taperecorder their views through a series of questions which I had hoped would shed light on the confusion which has ensued since Sept. 3 and would unearth some of the deep-seated feelings which might result in ~~the~~ athletes taking such an action as boycotting the Olympics. The opinions expressed by these two only represent feelings of two Negroes, Tommie ~~Smith~~ and Lee Evans. They are significant insofar as they may reveal the attitudes of two ~~Negroes~~ <sup>prominent athletes</sup> who ~~have apparently become more concerned with the problems of their people~~ are sharing the concern of others in their race about the problems their people must face *have become aware*

*of the problems*

~~It is the farmer~~

~~The role of this magazine of course~~  
Because of the athletic nature of  
this publication, these pages are ~~not~~<sup>causal</sup>  
~~the place~~ not the place for a casual  
analysis of racial problems.

Because ~~the~~ these pages are devoted  
to athletics, we must necessarily  
limit the discussion that ~~ensues~~  
developed to those aspects that at  
least indirectly relate to track  
and field.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

would shed some light on the confusion which has ensued since Sept. 3 and would unearth some of the deep-seated feelings which might result in US Black athletes taking such an action as boycotting the Olympics. The transcription that follows represents the opinions of two Negroes, who through personal insight, education, athletic achievement and world travel are becoming aware of the problems faced by the US Black people and who are motivated and prepared to accept the responsibility of sacrificing their own personal achievement for a cause (not necessarily an athletic boycott) they believe would aid in the cause of racial equality. As two non-militant, non-extremist Negroes, they are simply verbalizing the feelings of resentment and dissatisfaction perhaps typical of many of their brothers. As two prominent Negro athletes, their opinions about the possibility and effectiveness of a boycott do not necessarily represent the attitudes or desires of other Olympic hopefuls--or even themselves.

Because these pages are devoted to athletics, we must necessarily limit the discussion that developed to those aspects that at least indirectly relate to track and field. Both Tommie and Lee have read this ~~report~~ in its entirety and at least concur as to its factual content. Whether you agree or not with the merits of a ~~Negro boycott~~ US Negro boycott of the 1968 Olympics, you should find the reasons that would motivate such an action ~~as~~ revealing.

developed  
report

There's a questiio

by Dick Drake

There's a question that seems to be on the tips of the tongues of many sportsmen these days that in essence goes something like, "What could Tommie Smith and Lee Evans, American Negroes, feel so strongly about that they would consider sacrificing opportunities to win two gold medals a piece during the 1968 Olympics?" The motivation each man feels in asking this question may vary greatly, ranging from extremes of nationalistic concern that the US would not be at full strength to a sociological inquiry as to what Negroes would accrue from such an act. But it's still a question most Americans feel publized about.

But, regardless, it's still a question that leaves most Ameri-  
sions puzzled.

Thus, I took this question to Tommie and Lee, and sought to discover the Why behind such a suggestion.

On Spet. 18, during the World Student Games in Tokyo, a Japanese reporter asked American Negro sprinter Tommie Smith, "In the US, are the Negroes now equal to the whites in the way they are treated? Tommie's obvious answer was "No". the American Negro sprinter was then asked, "What about the possibility of American Negroes boycotting the 1968 Olympics?", a question proffered probably as the result of comedian Dick Gregory's request that such an act be considered--at least partly in deference to the stripping of Muhamed Ali's world boxing heavy weight title. Tommie's reply was, "Dpending upon the situation, you cannot rule out the possibility that we (US) Negro athletes might boycott the Games in Mexico."

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*social groups*

~~KV66VX16X~~

The only comment prior to this occasion by any America Negro athlaete ~~that ever~~ to have been circulated nationally was

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The only comment to have been circulated nationally on this same subject prior to this by any American Negro track and field athlete was proffered by Ralph Boston, occasion who, while he expressed a belief that it would not serve any purpose, did not deny the possibility of such an occurance.



QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED NEGRO BOYCOTT OF THE OLYMPICS/1968

1. Has there been any single major event which has prompted the suggestion that Negroes boycott the Olympics? What role did the stripping of Muhammed Ali's boxing title and Dick Gregory's subsequent request that Negroes boycott the Games play in the current thinking?

2. What is the objective of such a movement? What do you and others hope can be achieved with a boycott? Do you think any concrete results can be achieved? Or is it merely symbolic?

3. Is there any group or individual behind the boycott?

4. What specific action is being taken to bring about a boycott? What are your roles? How far has it progressed? In other words, how serious is it right now? And what chance is there that it will transpire?

5. What has motivated your current activist roles?

6. You have often said that, "We may be forced to boycott if we are asked to do this by our people." Which leaders could ask this and receive virtually universal support for the boycott?

7. The Olympics are regarded as the ultimate ~~x~~ of amateur sports competition, embracing the highest of ideals. Why single them out for boycotting, while continuing to compete for a school which has been charged with discrimination and in a country where it exists?

8. Why boycott only the Olympics? Why not all international meets? Or all national meets? Or all meets?

9. What form would the "pressures from outside to boycott" take in order to effect this boycott?

10. What are some of the pressures NOT to boycott?

11. Are there any conditions which could be met/remedied that would cause a cancelation of the proposed boycott?

12. What prompted you, Tommie, to comment about this possibility of a boycott in Japan?

13. Of the Negro athletes you've talked with, what percent would you say support the proposed boycott and are willing to honor it? Name the strongest proponents and opponents, or is that possible? Do you sense any resentment among white athletes?

14. What would happen if they didn't boycott? What would happen if they did?

15. Would a boycott be successful at any level other than complete withdrawal by Negroes?

16. Have you personally been the targets of any blatant or even subtle discrimination (either from coaches, other athletes or outsiders--fans, press, etc.) while the member of a US international team? Example, please. What was the relay incident in Europe? Was there a proposed boycott scheduled anytime during that trip? Why, if so.

17. Do you feel the US Negro is being exploited for his athletic talent while not receiving full individual rights and dignity off the field?

18. What types of discrimination have you experienced recently to give rise to the comment that "I'm just another nigger off the playing field."
19. How do you think the boycott would come about? Would you run in the US Olympic Trials, make the team and then drop out? Or not even try for the team?
20. How important is track and field to you? In relation to civil rights?
21. You are both still training for track and field. Does this indicate that you expect to run in Mexico City?
22. Do you think that boycotting the Olympics might mean the end of your track careers? Would you anticipate any reprisals by the AAU or the Olympic Committee if you refused to compete in Mexico City? For example, do you think they would discriminate against you when choosing future international teams? Or would it matter?
23. Do you feel a boycott might hurt your chances for a future in professional sports or otherwise?
24. What regrets would you have if you boycotted? What sacrifices are involved?
25. Why do you think the suggested boycott of the 1964 Olympics by Mal Whitfield for the same reasons did not materialize?
26. Even if the boycott doesn't go through, do you think that your statements to date will have served some value?
27. Has the press treated you fairly? What is their response? (Some examples.)
28. What has been the response of the public? By Negroes and Caucasians<sup>ca</sup>. What do you think of the statements by Ralph Boston and Stan Wright?
29. What is your reaction to columns such as the one by Jim Murray wherein he called you, Tom, a downycheeked kid who has an exaggerated opinion of his own athletic importance.
30. What about the challenges that you, Tom, have lost your humility with respect to what athletes have given you?
31. How has your opinion altered in the past six weeks since going on record about all this? In what ways do you feel differently than you did about six months ago?
32. What was your role in the United Black Students for Action (UBSA) at San Jose State? How much did the boycott of the Olympics play in leading you to become active there? What were the reasons for the action?
33. How successful did you consider this movement? Does your success, if any, in this movement give you reason for encouragement on the Olympic level?
34. What do you think of liberal Caucasians<sup>a</sup>. Are they, in your opinion, sincere?
35. What are the opinions of Bob Brown<sup>NZ</sup> and Bud Winter? Have you discussed your involvement at San Jose State as well as the proposed Olympic boycott with them?
36. What is your opinion about Black Power? Are they involved? What about allegations that the Communists may have a hand in your Negro boycott movement?

INTERVIEW BY TOMMIE SMITH AND LEE EVANS ON US NEGRO BOYCOTT

1. Has there been any single major event which has prompted the suggestion that Negroes boycott the Olympics? What role did the stripping of Ali's boxing title and Dick Gregory's subsequent request that Negroes boycott the Games play in the current thinking:

① Evans: I think that the most the Negroes are becoming aware. In high school I didn't know what was coming off, but in college I have become aware of what's going on around me. Plus what they did to guys like MALCOLM X. What Dick Gregory says doesn't have much to do with what I feel. And I just think that becoming aware myself, I don't dig some of the things that are happening. ~~Outside athletics. A little insight.~~

② TS: My comments in Japan came as a result of quite a bit of hearing and reading, thinking for myself. The individual asked me about the possible boycott; he said what do I know about the possible boycott in 1968. There is a ~~possibility~~ <sup>chance</sup> for a possible boycott in 1968. I said the reason was literally because of the ostracism of the US Negro I had made no comment prior to then. I was not motivated to comment as the result of anything Ralph Boston or Dick Gregory had said.

What is the objective of such a movement?

② Evans: I think that that I will be really hurt, but then you begin thinking about what the Negro has been going through in this country and if you come back for a month you might be high on the hog, but after that you would be just another guy. Look at Bob Richards on TV. Why don't they have Bob Hayes or Henry Carr advertizing on TV? ~~Why~~ If they have them advertizing Wheaties on TV, some of the people on the south might start buying Wheaties. And Williams some olympics is just now collecting garbage.

Will boycotting the Olympics enhance your opportunity to get jobs?

② Evans: If someone will do something now, something will be different for the '72 Olympics.

*asturcism*  
② Smith: There has been a lot of marches, protests and sit-ins on the situation of Negro ostracism, and I don't think that this boycott of the Olympics will stop the problem as a whole but I think people will see that we will not sit on our haunches and take this sort of stuff. We are a race of proud people and want to be treated as such.

What is your goal?

② TS: Our goal is not just to improve for ourselves and teammates, but to improve things for the entire Negro community?

Average man, establishment reconciled:

Lee: I think that the Negroes know that the white man doesn't go by his own rules, civil rights. I think the governor will have to improve things, like make new laws but then they break their own laws. The reason I think I would boycott is because I think things would be different for the American Negro in 1972.

Is there any individual or group?

③ TS: I couldn't say. The Negro athletes as a whole have not met, with an ethnic group in mind to boycott the Olympics. Soon, on Nov. 23 there will be Negro athletes who will meet with other sports to talk about the boycott. About 10 from San Jose State. Guys like Bogness won't be there. But this is a start.



2  
⑧ These other gys are being sent pamphlets and letters. It's called Youth Black Conference.

TS: I think we will draw a lot of conclusions. I'm not ~~boyc~~ advocating the boycott.

② ~~boyc~~ I have worked a long time for the Olympics, and I would hate to lose all that. And I think that boycotting the Olympics for ~~a strong reason~~ ~~is a~~ ~~good~~ ~~cause~~ ~~in~~ ~~order~~ ~~to~~ ~~boyc~~ is strong enough a reason not to compete.

Look at this way. Understand the years put in it. You have to look at all the technical problems involved, because if you don't you aren't considering all the problems involved.

✓ LE: We are a man first and an athlete second. I know professional football players who have quit because of the prejudice. We have received 100s of letters, and at least 75 percent from LA. From caucasians. I don't think our people would write, "Dear Black Bastard".

③ What has motivated your current activist roles:

TS: Thinking.

⑤ LE: Thinking. I'm just becoming aware of what is happening.

⑤ TS: Like Lee says, as a senior in high school I looked upon my ability as something no one else had, and looking at this ability alone I neglected to see what the problems it might bring. I was thinking for that day, and that's ~~me~~ where I made my mistakes until the last two years. I have begun to see that there are problems, and that I must learn to cope with them. I am living in this day and eage, and I am starting by looking at myself. as man first.

27 Jim Murry: humility:

27 TS: There are some people who are pen happy. As far as M's standpo nt, I think he is looking at it all on a narrow line and not objectively. I think that most writers are like this but Murray is. because he has said something about me that wasn't true. One quotation in particular bothered me, like "I was ~~advocating~~ a boycott." And a lot of other samall things. that added up to one big lie. ~~to~~ the average individual, it made me look like something lower than a rat.

27 LE: It ~~made me look~~ made Tommie look like militant Tommie. As soon as you become aware of what is happening to your people, you are considered militant. UBSA is a ~~militant~~ <sup>considered</sup> group because we got things done on campus. That campus is a lot better now. Do you know that SAn Jose ~~xxxx~~ had the least prejudice of any of the campus around, but the other campuses just haven't done anything about it.

What were the charges; review the problems:

32 LE: I think he fraternities were some of the greatest prolbmes. It wasn't that we wanted to join the damn organizations, but if we wanted to we couldn't. But right now if we went through rush, he would be black balled right away. Some Negor pledged last year (Valeriy Dison) ~~wne~~ t through and was rejected. Some of her caucasian friends said, "Sorry Valerie, you couldn't be in our soririty but we know you understand." But what is there to understand? Okay, I'm black and you're white and I can't get into your organization. because

32 LE: They really think that Negro is inferior to ~~them~~. that's why you can't join. you don't have the mental capacity to ~~be~~ in our sorority. something like this.

32 TS: Lets go outside the campus. I have been in a number of apartment houses where I have tried to get a llace to stay. Two or three times this past semester, I walked into the buildings seeking a place to rent. They said, NO, we just sold our last one.

32 LE: Big signs outside saying For rent, but we just sold it just a few minutes ago or someone else just phoned (reserving the place). ~~Wexvx~~ It got so bad that we sent Art Simburg (caus) to. Two years ago I didn't see it all. I knew they wouldn't say no to me. but they did.

3  
There are two types of discrimination at San Jose State. What others:

TS: Oh, I can tell when I walk up to someone what they're thinking.

32 LE: I know this light skinned negro athlete who went apartment hunting, and the lady couldn't tell he was a negro. so, she was going to rent the apt. "You're roommates aren't negro are they? He said, "I'm negro. She just looked at him, and so she went along with it and would call, but he wound up not getting the apartment."

Addresses from the school:

None are offered by the school.

Solution:

32 LE: We have an ~~organization~~ man HAMBUSMAN Swedish name. type of moderator. He has been appointed to look into this type of thing. If anyone experiences difficulty in housing, they go to him. And then that apt. building won't be able to rent to anyone. to any students at SJS. Then, if a white SJS student moves he will be expelled. from school.

Problems in athletics.

TS: I can say there are a few instances.

LE: I can say a lot of things, but I don't want to say them.

32 TS: Actually, what good will it do now, it's all in the past. You know it was there. I did have a few bad deals because of the color of my skin. Bud has helped a lot of negroes but he has messed on a lot of them. Look out for Bud. He'll mess on you. They told me to not depend on Bud.

TS: As a result, a lot of naviety has come. I don't think Bud knew there was a problem because he had been going on for so long. Nobody knew. Everyday routine.

Rooming, and locker assignments:

32 LE: As a result of what happened the week of Sept. 18, I can tell you the names of guys who stopped talking with me (top leaders at school). They used to talk with me. They quite all a sudden. Tom was walking by this particular guy who was talking to some big shot, and finally says hello to Tom and introduces him to this guy, ~~Any other time~~ the other times. We're really Any other time, that's all he wants him for. to say, we're proud of this nigger here. to build up prestige for himself and the school.

④  
TS: I have a class with one of these individuals. I had two cases to take to the press box one game. I participate in class, and think of this teacher ~~as~~ as an intellectual and a instructor and so I enter into conversations. (I talk back). I wasn't going to talk with him, this guy talked back to me.

Olympics regarded as the highest in ideals in amateur athletics.

8 ✓ ~~TS:~~ LE: The school is just a part of this country. So I think we should hit at the top. And this country I can't dig on why the US voted to permit South Africa to compete in the Olympics. That was what I was told, anyway. I'm definitely going to discuss this matter at this conference. I don't dig on this. They send this cat Paul Nash to run here in the US, If I went to South Africa, they wouldn't let me run in no damn meet with Paul Nash. But he can come here and run with us. If they send Jim Ryun, they'd let him run. <sup>Urban American</sup> But I'm supposed to be an American. Uncle Tom Stan Wright. He wrote a letter to tell me that I should consider myself an American first, a Negro second when nobody wise considers me a <sup>American</sup> Negro first. You read any kind of book or magazine, Even T&FN says Negro Stan Wright. ~~is~~

8 ✓ TS: What kind of logic is that?

8 ✓ LE: The first thing you see is You're a Negro, the word, but you're supposed to be an American. But if everything is groovy, there should be no purpose in mentioning that because when you put a picture of one of us in there they can see what color your skin is. This type of thing. When Ryun goes to SA, they go ape shit over him.

8 ✓ TS: What kind of logic is this to let Paul Nash to come to American and compete for SA, and me or Lee or Boston cannot go to American to compete in SA. Now, if we are Americans, if Ryun and ~~Smith~~ are both Americans, why can't I go to SA. If we can't go there, why can they come here. Look at Russia, for example. ~~But~~ They didn't come over here, so we decided not to go over there. So why can't they do this to So Africa. They go out for track, and come .

Why the Olympics, not other meets.

10 ✓ LE: This is where you can hit them the hardest. This is where the US gets its propaganda. The Ol are a big thing, at least according to the press. The US and USSR use it to show its power. So, I don't see why the US can't go out to help this country to ~~show~~ show its propaganda ~~power~~ goals. Here in SJ or

~~TS: We can go over to Viet Nam or Detroit and get our heads blown off, but they~~

TS: We can go over to Viet Nam and get ~~our~~ heads blown off, ~~but~~ we can't live in Detroit without getting their heads blown off. It makes no sense.

8 ✓ LE: SW talks about being American first, but there are lots of Negroes who have been hanged in armed service uniforms in the southern states. Ly ched.

10 ✓ TS: ~~Why~~ Why should we boycott the Olympics instead of the meets at our college? A good percentag of the Negroes are in college because of a scholarship. Now, if we discontinue athletics, the scholarship means almost our lives to us. I got my education through a scholarship. If I had discontinued competition, it would have meant that my scholarship would have been taken away. Therefore, I wouldn't have gotten an education and gotten as far as I have, and so I wouldn't know what I'm talking about. Education is a prelude to a later advancement in life: knowledge. Therefore, unless you have the financial background you discontinuing wouldn't be advantageous. You have less to lose ~~by boycotting the Olympics~~ and more to gain by boycotting at this level than at San Jose State. because this is the way you can hit the hardest.

10 ✓ LE: Also, if I had quit running. I would have <sup>5</sup> lost my scholarship. Boy, I know that if it weren't for my running I wouldn't be in school today. I just don't have the money to get through,

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QUESTION: Has there been any single major event which has prompted the suggestion that Negroes boycott the Olympics? What role did the stripping of ~~Muhammed~~ Ali's boxing title and Dick Gregory's subsequent request that Negroes boycott the Games play in the current thinking?

EVANS: What Dick Gregory said ~~doesn't~~ doesn't have much to do with what I feel. I think that many Negroes are becoming aware of what's happening. In high school, I didn't know what was coming off, but in college I have become aware and concerned. Of course, what they did to Ali affects my opinion. I just don't dig some of ~~th~~ things that are happening.

QUESTION: What is the objective of such a movement? What do you and others hope can be achieved with a boycott? Do you think any concrete results can be achieved? Or is it merely symbolic?

EVANS: In terms of what I have put into the sport, I think that I will be really hurt. But, then you begin thinking about what the Negro has been going through in this country. When you come back from the Olympics with a gold medal, you might be high on the hog for a month, but after that you would be just another guy. Look at Bob Richards on TV. Why don't they have Bob Hayes or Henry Carr advertizing on TV? If they had them advertizing Wheaties on TV, some of the people in the south might start purchasing more of that product. As for myself, I would be most interested in seeing something done now so that things will be different by the 1972 Olympics.

SMITH: There have been a lot of marches, protests and sit-ins on the situation of Negro ostracism in the US. and I don't think that this boycott of the Olympics would stop the problem ~~but~~ I think people will see that we will not sit on our hanches and take this sort of stuff. We are a race of proud people and want to be treated as such. Our goal ~~would~~ be not to just improve conditions for ourselves and teammates, but to improve things for the entire Negro community. You must regard this suggestion as only another step in a series of movements. Maybe discrimination won't stop in the next 10 years but it will represent another important development. As far as being spit on, being stepped on, being bitten by dogs, the first dog that bites me I'm going to bite back. We're not going to wait for the white man to think of something else to do against us--as in politics which are currently working against us. And it doesn't do any good to put an Uncle Tom into a high position. I have worked a long time for the Olympics, and I would hate to lose all that. But I think that boycotting the Olympics for a good cause is strong enough reason not to compete.

EVANS: I think Negroes are realizing that the white man doesn't go by his own rules, such as in civil rights. To the extent that I think things would be different for the American Negro by 1972 I am willing to consider boycotting. We are men first and athletes second. Professional athletes are even quitting now because of prejudice.

QUESTION: What prompted you, Tommie, to comment about the possibility of a boycott in Japan?

SMITH: My comments in Japan came as a result of quite a bit of listening and reading and thinking for myself. The reporter asked me about the possibility of a boycott. I told him there is a chance, and the reason was literally because of the ostracism of the US Negro. I had made no comment prior to then. I was not motivated to comment as the result of anything Ralph Boston or Dick Gregory had said.

QUESTION: Is there any group or individual behind the proposal for a boycott?

SMITH: I couldn't say, but no one has approached me. It's up to the Negro athletes to decide, and we have not met as a group to discuss the boycott. There will be a Youth Black Conference in Los Angeles on Nov. 23 on which oc-

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white people  
stop  
eating

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EVANS: If everyone is willing to do it, I'm sure we're going to do it.  
~~But it's stupid to do it if only half of the Negroes want it.~~

casian we will discuss the possibilities with athletes from other sports as well. This meeting will not include all the major track and field athletes, but I think we will draw a lot of conclusions. Again, I'm not advocating the boycott.

QUESTION: How serious is the possibility of a boycott? What are the chances that it will transpire?

EVANS: I think there is a very small chance that it will go through. The guys in California would give it up; they'd hate to but then you've got to do something. But then there are the athletes from the other 49 states. I really want to go to the Olympics, but I'll pass it up if I have to--for a just cause.

SMITH: I think a close enough decision will develop at this meeting to know what will happen.

QUESTION: Of the Negro athletes you've talked with, what percent would you say support ~~the proposed boycott~~ or would support a boycott?

EVANS: You have to go to different sections of the country. I think in California it would be 75% right now. But if you go to the south or southwest, these are the guys who are catching the most hell in the streets and they just don't understand the need for a boycott. The schools in the south simply aren't the same ~~in the south~~ as in the est. ~~They're not as academically strong.~~ So, these guys aren't aware of what's happening. The schools don't get them to thinking, and the guys don't read about the problems. They don't think about their jobs and what their parents were doing. They're just thinking about themselves and what the Olympics would mean.

SMITH: Some of these guys from the south look at you funny. But look at it this way. How would you like it if you said something in California and you got back to your home in the south to find a double barreled shot gun sticking in your front door. I think the guys are more afraid than anything.

QUESTION: What has motivated your current activist roles?

SMITH: Thinking.

EVANS: Thinking.

SMITH: Like Lee says, as a senior in high school I looked upon my ability as something no one else had, and look at this ability alone I neglected to realize there might be something else to like than just track. It's only been in the last two years that I have begun to see that there are problems, and that I must learn to cope with them. And I'm starting by looking at myself.

QUESTION: How have your opinions altered in the past six weeks since ~~going~~ going on record about all this?

SMITH: It has forced me to read and think about the problems of this day and age--even more than six months ago. If this individual in Japan would not have asked me about the boycott possibility in 1968, I might not have begun really thinking about this jspecific suggestion. All of a sudden something suddenly flashed into my mind. Is there something to it? What is this individual asking me? Am I going to take the ostracism I'm taking now, or if this Japanese knew this, where ~~did~~ it come from?

QUESTION: ~~Could you give up~~ athletics tomorrow?

SMITH: I would give up athletics tomorrow if the cause were strong enough. I would give up athletics in a minute to die for my people.

QUESTION: ~~How~~ What about the challenges that you, Tom, have lost your humility with respect to what athletics have given you? What is your reaction to columns such as the one by Jim Murray in the LA Times wherein he called you a downycheeked kid who has an exaggerated opinion of his own athletic importance?

SMITH: There are some people who are open happy. As far as Murray's standpoint, I think he is looking at it all on a narrow line and not objectively. I don't think most writers are like this, but Murray is. Because he has said something about me that wasn't true. One quotation in particular bothered me, and ~~that was~~

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Don't seem

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that was that I was advocating a boycott. And then there were a lot of smaller things that added up to one big lie. To the average individual, it made me look like something lower than a rat. X

EVANS: It made Tommie look like militant Tommie. As soon as you become aware of what is happening to your people, you are considered militant. UBSA is considered a militant group because we got things done on the campus. That campus is a lot better now. And other campuses could be as well if they'd just do something.

~~QUESTION: Why boycott only the Olympics? Why not all international meets? Or all national meets? Or meets at San Jose?~~

QUESTION: Why boycott only the Olympics? Why single them out for boycotting, while continuing to compete for a school which has been charged with discrimination and in a country where it exists?

EVANS: The school is just a part of this country. So, I think we should hit at the top. And this country--I can't dig why the US voted to permit South Africa to compete in the Olympics. That was what I was told, anyway. I'm definitely going to discuss this matter at this conference. They send this cat Paul Nash to run here in the US. If I went to South Africa, they wouldn't let me run in no damn meet with Paul Nash. But he can come here and run with us. I'm supposed to be an American, but I'm not treated as one. Coach Stan Wright wrote me a letter to tell me that I should consider myself an American first, a Negro second. But nobody else considers me an American first. You read any kind of book or magazine. Even Track & Field News says Negro Stan Wright. The first thing you're told or see is that you're a Negro, but still you're supposed to be an American. Especially when you put a picture of us in there, the readers can see what color your skin is.

SMITH: What kind of logic is this to let Paul Nash come to America and compete for South Africa. Lee or Boston or myself cannot go as Americans to compete in South Africa. Now, if we are Americans, if Ryun and I are both Americans, why can't I go to South Africa and compete in the same meets. If we can't go there, why can they come here?

QUESTION: This is where you can hit them the hardest. This is one of the major areas where the US gets its international sports propaganda. The Olympics are a big thing, and the press help to create this. So, if the people want us (Negroes) to help promote US sports propaganda, they help us too.

SMITH: Why should we boycott the Olympics instead of the meets at our college? A good percentage of the Negroes are in college because of a scholarship. Now, if we discontinue athletics, ~~the scholarship program~~

the scholarship almost means our lives to us. I got my education through a scholarship. If I had discontinued competition, it would have meant that my scholarship would have been taken away. Therefore, I wouldn't have gotten an education and gotten as far as I have, and so I ~~would~~ wouldn't know what I'm talking about. Education is a prelude to a later advancement in life: knowledge. Therefore, unless you have the financial background, ~~dis~~continuing athletics wouldn't be advantageous to any cause. You have less to lose and more to gain by boycotting the Olympics than at San Jose State--because this is the way you can hit the hardest.

QUESTION: Have you experienced any blatant or subtle discrimination on international track teams?

EVANS: (Lee related two incidences concerning John Carlos and George Anderson at the US-Commonwealth meet which he felt were either the result of misunderstandings or were sufficiently remedied so as not to be classified as acts of discrimination.) But we were going to boycott that meet as a Negro block if they didn't use the first four finishers in the American women's 100-yard dash in the relay--who all happened to be Negroes. ~~As I've mentioned~~ They intended

(2)

EVANS: This

Tommie  
he



Reagan, this stud is just putting the Negro down but he is going to start more trouble with riots. He's shutting down programs like the Poverty program (bills). All that's doing is keeping the Negro down and getting him mad, in the ghetto and getting him mad. They let some Negro get arrested and put in a police car. Then they start throwing rocks and starting a riot. Set the police station on fire. They burn the police dept. The hippies were protesting the Induction Center in Oakland, when the police were beating these demonstrators - the only reason Regan saw all this was because the newspaper men were angry at the police. Otherwise you wouldn't have seen some of the scenes you witnessed. It was out and out police brutality.

5 TS: I'm from Texas, down deep in the south. My father was a share cropper, and we owned a few acres ~~ours~~ and tilled it ourselves. At the time, we had a big family (I was 7 and there were several younger than me). If you don't think my father had a hard time and went through messes. Now I can take it because he had to take it to raise his kids. And to see what my father went through and with my college education, and for me to go back to being an Uncle Tom again--I'd be six-feet under. He went through a lot of stuff to bring us up that I wouldn't go through now. He left his farm so that we could get a better education. I'm going to fight. Looking back on my father, he went through a lot and I owe him this much. There were 12 children in my family.

You're picking the Olympics because of its symbolism.

TS: There is only one Olym.

13 What percent age of the Negroes support the boycott and support it:

✓ 13 LE: You have go to different section s of the country. I know in California it would 75 percent right now. But if you go south, southwest. And these are the guys who are catching the most hell in the streets, and they just don't see it they don't understand. They haven't gotten it into their heads. The schools aren't the same in the south as in the west. They're not as academically strong. They admit it. They're not aware of the problem. they don't teach them that much. They just don't read about things. They read all about Malcom X, but They just don't see why we should go through with a boycott. ~~They~~ They don't think about their job and what their parents were doing. They're just thinking about themselves. They just come out against it.

✓ 13 TS: Some of these guys look at you funny. Look at this way. How would you like it if you said something in California and you got back to your home in the south there's a double barrell shot gun sticking in your front door. I think the guys are more afraid than anything.

✓ LE: This guy on the team this summer in Mississippi. I don't understand what his bag is, where he's at.

What about Ralph Boston's comments; were they in opposition to what you were saying?

LE: Ralph won't talk about it. Track is his life. A gold medal in 1968 he has been training for all this damn time. I know that he wants to ~~quit~~ <sup>quit</sup> now, but he wants to quit. He knows there's no hope for him in 1972, and there's more for him to lose. This is his only chance. He has more to lose than I do.

How will this affect your chances for a pro football contract.

23 TS: I have a life to lead, and so does my fellow man. And I think myself that the step I take will be at my own risk. As far as JM goes, with their lingo, it's my risk. ~~What I~~ What I am saying, I am going to say. And what I say is going to be the truth. And what they print is their business. It's my business too. And if it's wrong, we do have freedom of the press you know. That goes for both. I'm not threatening the cat, but my mouth is just as big as his.

Boycott success at any level aside from entire Negro withdrawal.

*Madeline Pender*

to substitute Dede Busk for Madeline ~~Manning~~. But as it turned out, Barbara Farrell got injured, so both Dede and Madeline got to run. And that saved the situation.

**WHEN**

QUESTION: When did you sense a change in your opinions?

SMITH: It began when I started walking and thinking I am a Negro. I wish I could give you a definite date. I said, Here's a white man, I'm a Negro. He can walk into this store, why can't I. It really started last semester, and then Tokyo helped. I took a class in black leadership; it started me to think. What the hell is going on in the US? I'm a human. What kind of rights do I have? What kind of rights don't I have? Why can't I have these rights?

EVANS: I started reading. That's what got me to thinking.



15 LE: If everyone is willing to do it, I'm sure we're going to do it. But it's stupid to do it if only half of the Negroes want it.

What leaders could ask this of you?

4 TS: This is why the meeting has been called in LA. There are a lot of different work shops.

LE: I know that it will be by sports. Basketball and track are the most kjjmportant. They thing they have to go by the quota system, but if you want to win you had better get the best team available.

Discrimination on international teams:

LE; Listen, man, I'm going to tell you that these damn newspapers really messed me ~~up~~ <sup>over</sup> bad. What they told Ralph, I understand what he said about me. I'm going to write Ralph to al et him know that they misquoted me. In LA, for the Commonwealth meet, everything was groovy for a while. Bush asked me who I thought should be in the short relay. I thought about it, and said Copeland. But I didn't think about Carlos at the time. And I'm not sure I would have said Carlos at the time anyway. But Carlos said that Bush was just dhowing favortism to his own athlaetes. I can't say things there. But that wasn't a cripe. But Anderson had a gripe, because Bush put Bright ahead of Anderson when he finished higher in the AAU finals of the 100. Anderson wa furious. But Bush said Anderson came a day late ~~and that~~ but that was because his ticket was written only for then. and that Bright was handling the baton better and had worked out with the team. That cooled over too. We weren't going to boycott over that either. Bright is just like a blood to us. ~~What you have down~~ He's a cool stud. I even wrote to the dude to let him know that I wasn't getting after him. B ut we were going to boycott about. The strange thing is that Ralph was going to lead lthis boycott. Ralph called a meeting, and asked if we would boycott if they don't correct the women's relay team. There were four Negro girls who finished first in the AAU. Everyone agreed on that. The deal was Madeline was taken off and tput Dede Busk. This cat the coach went straight to Ralph. But it was all a mistake because But it turned out that Barbara Farrell got injured, so that settled that.

Chance of the boycott?

LE: I think there is a very small chance to that it will go through. The guys in california would give it up; they'd hate to but then you've go to. but then there are 49 <sup>states</sup>. I really want to go, but I'll pass it up if I have to--for a just cause.

TS: I think a close enough decision will develop at this meeting to know what will happen. No white person can come to that meeting. I'll try to tape record the meeting but sometimes they don't let you. You don't know how many CIA men come to these meetings;

Is there some organization behind all lthis; communists or Black Power or some organization ?

36 LA: They really think the Communists were behind this organization. They don't ~~think~~ know how good were we. If any one of them ever approached Harry E, he would tell them to go to ehll. At one of our meetings, a Black power guy came to our meeting to find out what we were jdoing. These cats were out for blood. They said look while you are picking we'll burn down the school. They were dead serious. We laughed at first, but they weren't kidding. Everybody thought Harry was their enery but he doesn't know how he set them. These guys wanted to do this. Kai-U wanted to take all these guys up into the mountains to train guerrela techniques. I cracked up.

Opinions about Black Power?

36 LE: I really think there will be a Negro revolution by 1972. It sounds stupid. It should have been in 1872. They'll be killing white. I see it coming. They'll be killing white people in the streets. If 35,000,000 Negroes come out with guns and knives, they'll blow up the electrical systems. Someone will go.

34 They don't realize what is happening. Guys like Reagan and Johnson. I don't want this. I got all sorts of white friends. Art Si burg thought I was kidding when I suggested that I get some black oil for him to (protect him). I was dead serious. So he won't go too. It's coming. I know it. You may not believe it.

36 TS: I feel it is just the same that we don't want to boycott the 1968 Olympics.

36 LE: I think they should let things go like they are. I don't things are going to change as long as we have a capitalist governemtn.

36 TS: Look at Louis Lomax. As one of my professors, he looks into the futu e with me walking down the street arm in arm with a white guy with my arm around, skipping along into the mist. going off into the mist. Look at Malcolm X's tehroy. It's a complete break off over here somewhere. they're's black. this is where we're going to go. if we have to fight and kill to get there, this is where we're going to go. Black and black alone. If the US govt. is going to fall, it's going to fall and fall hard. But not for Lomax. But to be happy and to be where we are now; how are we going to get to be happy with the white man.  
what's going to be next?  
he never says how. The

36 LE: ~~the~~ The black man has been here for 410 yearsin this country. And he's still catching hell from the white man. And so that's the reason separateion ois the only solution.

36 TS: Everything you talk to a Causaion, he'll tell you give it a little time. give it a few years. It's been 410 years; time is running out.  
36 Going back to the meeting we had at SJ, concerning the fraternities and sorirityies, I'll be damn if some of those frat boys didn't get up and say I'll let you in our fratnerity, but we need time. Can you give us a littel time. They're just p8tting us off.

LE: Some cat at this meeting said ~~without realizing he~~ without realizing he was talking to Negroes who were in the room, "Did you know that 75 percent of the American presidents have been in fraternities. " We just cracked up. Do you think the American Negro ~~gives a damn~~ gives a damn . He thought he was saying something. Right now, all he is doing is backing up. He doesn't know what's got this racist country going. These cats are sodumn.

TS: I prefer MalcomX.

LE: I prefer Malcolm X.

TS: B<sup>E</sup>ing a conservative will get me into more trouble than I am in now. more than 410 years ago. jTo be stepped on, to be looked at like I am poison or to be looked at like I am dangerous to talk to, I am a liberal. ~~I'm a conservative. I wish to know.~~

How have your opinions changed since you first went on record?

✓  
31 ✓ TS: It has forced me to read and think about the jproblems of this day and age--than even 6 months ago. If this individual wouldn't have asked me what would happen in 1968--olym boycott--all a sudden something suddenly flashed in my mind. (is there something to it?) What is this individual asking me? Am I going to take the ostracism I'm taking now, or If this Japanese knew this, where tdid it come from.

✓ Could you give up athletics tommorrow?

20 ✓ TS: I would give up athletics tomorrow if the cause were strong enough. I would give up athletics in a minute to ~~git~~ die for my people.

LE: The Negro always sticks together no matter what. I guess you know that. We want to be together. They know they have something in common--you know ~~you have something~~ being black you are deprived of something. Being oppressed, it makes you want to be together because you're stronger as a group. Even when you're on a team, you want to be together.

32 TS: Concerning the meeting we had with USBA, the fraternity guy got up and said, "Mr Edwards, I think you're just for you're people. Edwards said, "You're damn right I'm for my people. Wouldn't you be, too? Who does the hell he think he's for? The cat didn't say it right. He wasn't looing at it right. ~~Not~~ Not objectively. You're one sided, in other words if ~~you can't~~ you're calling Harry a militant, if you can't have it your way; you're going to kill somebody. look at your way and try to see it our way. But it's been that way for 410 years now. Harry says along with 100s of other Negroes, it's time for it too stop.

Olympics: boycott would improve things for the 72 games; how would other things change?

✓ TS: I think this is only a step. I don't think this is a 100 percent preventative. of ostracism. Maybe, the discrimination won't stop in the next 10 years, but this is a step like sit-ins. As far as being spit on, being stepped on, being bitten by dogs, first dog that bites me I'm going to bite him back. thi just as hard as he bit me. only it's not going to be my nouth. all this stuff is just a mess. these are steps we are taking. i hope someday it won't all be a mess. we're not going to wait foe the white man thinks of something else to do gagainst us--with politicis--which are fighting against us 100 percent. high position. It won't do no good to put an uncle tom into a high position. mc kissist and white. they couldn't get two percent of the college students to follow them. they pay him off for the things he's saying. Stan Wright. has lost it. the way we see it. Stan doesn't see it. They appoint Stan Wright, Negro, to control the sprinters, quarter-milers and relay men. They're all the negroes. they got him to control us. They know what's happening. the olympi knows that negroes are becoming more aware of what happenings.

TS: I wonder what they're going to say when we bring up the lquestion. if we bring up the question the sprinters, relay men and hurdlers are all negores, and we say why is stan wright our coach. they're g oing to say , well stan wright had at the particular time the best qualifications and the to become the sprint coach. what else can they say?

TS: We're all ~~as~~ as muscular mature, now what in the hell can a coach do for us now that we don't already know.

99999

LE: they know us as the faster nigger on campus. they only talk to us because we're athletes. they don't talk to the next negro who passes by.

TS: 90 percent of the time, <sup>professors say</sup> congratulations. i say thank you. What did I do. I say on my marriage? and they no on your ~~world~~ world record? They never talk about marriage or academics.

LE: You are a fast nigger. they don't say nigger but that's what they mean.

TS: We're talking about ideology. one coach. This cat does not have any kind of realization that negroes can have any sentimental value. and when he looks at you he looks at you as an athlete and how he can get you into some easy classes to get through college. now how hell are you going to get an education with 15 units of badmitton.

LE: You get a sheet from them that says what it takes to get through this college. No matter what someone says to take. you just barely got a two points. last semester. you never will get out of school that

TS: R I'm taking a couple of courses that I have no interest in. But I have to take them. Look at Rotc for example. As a result I'm not getting good grades in them because i have no interest in them. why should i go to viet nam and fight for this country and come back when my equality will still be half taken away. i have no interest in those courses because they'll do me no good. big deal being a lieutenant in the arm. if i could come back here just like my white friends can. these are things that are bothering me now, and have been, and will continue to ~~bring about a revolution~~ result in more riots and might result in a revolution. if some of these high politicians don't get off their high hat. like johnson.

when did you sense a change in your opinions?

TS: I wish I could give you a definite date. it began when began walking and thinking that I am a Negro. Here's a white man, I'm a negro, he can walk into this store, why can't I?

TS: It came up on my own thinking. last semester, particularly in tokyo, he started me to thinking. i'm taking a class in black leadership. ~~but~~ it started me to thinking. what the hell is going on in the united states? i'm a human, what kind of rights do I have? what kind of rights don't I have. Why can't I have these rights? Just stop asking yourself questions. you come up with no answers, you start worrying. you don't know what to think, how to think, who to ask for the answer. and so you

LE: I started reading, that's what go me to thinking.

TS: I'm a man, if a cat from the Black Panthers comes up to me, or any party, and tell me something that i should do, first of all i'm going to think about it, and to kill a man is not one of my greatest hopes, nor is it one of my great abilities either. if i have to do something so drastic, i'm going to shoot for his head.

LE: I can get any policeman I want. I've seen what they can do to a white man, and I know what they is going to do to me. negro. shit. shit. shit. shit. s hit. shit. shit. shit. shit. shit.