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Thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT Track & Field News

November 27, 1967

# TRACK & FIELD NEWS Inc.

p. o. box 296 los altos, calif. 94023 phone: 948-8188 area code 415

Bert Nelson president and publisher Cordner Nelson

Dick Drake managing editor Ed Fox

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business manager

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DECEMBER 4, 1967

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT TRACK & FIELD NEWS PO Box 296 Los Altos, California 94023

GENTLEMEN:

IN REGARDS TO YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 27, 1967, I HAVE ENCLOSED A CLIPPING THAT WAS IN THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS THIS PAST SUNDAY.

I WAS INTERVIEWED FOR THIS ARTICLE. I CAN SINCERELY SAY ITS CONTENTS CLEARLY EXPRESSES MY OPINIONS AND FEELINGS TOWARD A 1968 OLYMPIC BOYCOTT.

YOU CAN DISREGARD ANYTHING THAT DOES NOT PERTAIN TO THE BOYCOTT ITSELF.

SINCERELY,

JOHN W. CARLOS

PO BOX 3713 East Texas Station Commerce Texas 75428

# Carlos Hits Prejudice East Texas Sprinter May Join Boycott

#### By CARLTON STOWERS

John Carlos, East Texas State's premier sprinter, spent Thanksgiving Day in the pine sheltered calm of Commerce. Texas, enjoying holiday relaxation with his wife.

At the same time 50 other top Negro athletes and an estimated 150 members of the Black Youth for Action Committee gathered on the second floor of a Los Angeles Baptist church to discuss the possibility of boycotting the 1968 Olympic Games.

Carlos, the reigning Pan-American Games 200-moter dash champion, had received a letter of invitation to attend the LA meeting but was unable to make the trip. "I had planned to drive out with my wife but things didn't work out," he said.

Still, the possibility loomed strong that the New York native will join the movement should it gather enough stearn to prove effective.

"THE MOTIVES behind the boycott idea," says Carlos, "are all right. Today's Negro is using his own mind and realizes he's being mistreated."

Carlos, who enjoyed a highly successful summer as a member of the United States national team. is, along with San Jose State's Tommie Smith and Texas Southern's Jimmy Hines, one of the favorites to represent the U.S. in the 200-meters in Mexico City. In addition to winning the Pan-Am sprint title. be was first in the trials (20.4). won the U.S. vs. Europe meet in Canada in 20.5, and was third in the U.S. vs. Commonwealth meet in California (20.4). He also defeated world 100-meter dash record co-holder Willie Turner in his specialty in Italy, dashing to a 10.3 clocking.

Whether Carlos will become a full-fielded member of the boycott movement depends on the amount of support it receives from the Negro athletes. "If

levied an attack on coaches of U.S. national teams. the "They're prejudiced. A Randy Matson or a Jim Ryun makes the team and the coaches go up to them before the meets and ask; 'Do you want to throw the discus today, Randy?' or 'What do you think about running the 1,500 meters today, Jim?'. But, if you're a Negro, it's 'You're gonna run this or you're gonna do that'. They don't bother to ask you if you feel up to doing this or that."

"DISCRIMINATION here in Texas has hurt me, personally," says Carlos. "You go out of state to a track meet and you are representing not only your school but the entire state. Yet, you come back and find restaurants that say they don't

The outspoken speedster also serve Negroes . . , you go into evied an attack on coaches of a place to shoot a game of pool and they tell you Negroes arcn't allowed.

> "I could wear an Olympic gold medal around my neck and that still wouldn't entitle me to be served in these places."

One of the sorest spots to the boycotting athletes is the fact that South Africa's Paul Nash was invited to the U.S. last summer to compete in the Compton Relays sprint events. On the other hand, South Africa has an agreement with the AAU that it will not bring athletes to South Africa on tours. "The United States is aware of this," Carlos says, "and they know it's wrong but they just say, 'These are only Negroes so we don't give a damn, we'll just throw out anything and they'll take it.' "

AMCNG THE more prominent backers of the boycott are Smith, world 440-yard dash record holder, teammate Lee Evans, the world's No. 2 quartermiler, and UCLA basketball star Lew Alcindor.

"Since Tommie's name has been associated with this movement," says Carlos, "he's received letters addressed to 'Nigger Smith' and 'Black Tom' — that sort of thing. People need to realize he's a human being just like everyone clse."

Carlos' decision is still not comented as to what his personal action will be toward the problem.

"But," he says, "It I did go to the Olympics and win a gold medal, I don't think I'd he as happy about it, knowing I should have boycotted."

"AFTER ALL, boycotting is a lot better than going out in the streets and rioting."

Prime reasons for the boycott, say officials of the Black Youth Committee, are to aid in the Negroes' quest for equality. Prejudice and discrimination, note leaders of the movement, are at an all-time high.

"You look at it this way," Carlos points out. "Guys on a team go out and run together but you seldom see them party together or room together.

"Some coaches are very prejudiced. A white boy can go out and do something one night and not be called on the carpet: let a Negro do the same thing the next day and he'll find himself in trouble."



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SAN JOSE STATE COLLEGE SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT San Jose, California

Nordy Jensen, Director 294-6414, ext. 2315

#### STATEMENT FROM LEE EVANS, SJS TRACK ATHLETE

"I want to make it clear right now that I never said I was mistreated by white athletes. I number them among my very best friends. Athletes at San Jose State are not distinguished by color--we laugh together, attend social functions together, and participate both in actual competition and practice sessions together. We have fine camarederie on our track team at SJS and have always fought for our successes and records as a unit. The same is true of the national teams I have participated on. Track, in my eyes, is one of the sports where I see no animosity between races. For example: if there were any types of dissention on our relay teams, we couldn't function, let alone break any records. Some of my most happy memories have come while competing with athletes of all colors and nationalities on the field of sport. I want this clear once and for all. I have suffered great anguish because of this misquote and I want my many white friends to know I realize I never was mistreated by AWY athlete."

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- L definitely plan to compete regardless of whatever anyone else does.
- I have not formed an opinion at this time.
- My opinion does not agree with any of the above, as I feel thusly:

Please feel free to add any other comments concerning the proposed boycott: <u>To give up A chance</u> vo go the olympics is <u>giving up a cleant of a life time but I give</u> <u>believe in a just Cause</u>. <u>Besicles how can you</u> <u>bejcott schefling you haven't gualified Fok</u>. <u>M</u>

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Thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT Track & Field News

November 27, 1967

# TRACK & FIELD NEWS Inc.

p. o. box 296 los altos, calif. 94023 phone: 948-8188 area code 415

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Monthly & would like to state that it

Please feel free to add any other comments concerning the proposed boycott: As to my own personal feelings they are my riad, But I am convinced of one thing in that the proposed here of the Office Games is off base. It is the contention that the Office Games is the one place the black Man can enhance his image Throughout the world, they the black Man can enhance his image Throughout the world, they the black Man can enhance his image Throughout the world, they the black Man can enhance his image Throughout the world.

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11 elagies

With a and the second of the second Dear Athlete: Mr. Carlos Mar 

Thanksgiving Day meeting, press your personal feelings about the boycott as it has been suggested in the Angeles, Nov. 23. We are simply desiring to give you an opportunity to exby Harry Edwards of San Jose State during the Black Youth Conference in Los proposed boycott of the 1968 Olympic Games by US Negro athletes as outlined Track & Field News is interested to learn your opinion concerning the 1.

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anyone etse does. I definitely plan to boycott the 1968 Olympics regardless of whatever

Which leaders? I would boycott if requested to by certain leaders or organizations.

While to whatever the majority of the Negro athletes decide.

many of these big indesr & outdoor meets where you never see any Black alling, past great Black athletes that would like to still be a part of track and field, rather than just a spectator. Here is where I feel the Black

Finally I would like to state that it anything should be boy ested, it is

No doubt there will be many contradictions and much contraversy concerning The fast but I am of firm convictions that the boyeatt will not ourvive, Mainly because there are and will be many Black athletes that can & will think for themselves and realize that they can do more harm to their families, com-Please feel free to add any other comments concerning the proposed

for the 1968 US Olympic track and field team . It is not being sont to any other coache wist mails spring the track of the greats.

EncereiAs far as how Aleindor being in favor of The boycott, I really can't get bring myself to believe that he would advocate such a program. Mainty because it is encompt feeling that he is too intelligent to be led by Trol. Edwards, whom To ments quasi Hitter, trying to lead the masses by his militant speeches, that

To receive his medal, he can stand There proudly, head high, and say "book at me, & am just as much a man as anyone, atthough not at all times treated as one. MONSUPFYSA here it is up to The individual to then come back to the United States and Inor use whatever influence he has gained to help suppress many of the prejudices EDILOB Found in The United States.

#### Darnell Mitchell

Dear Athlete:

Track & Field News is interested to learn your opinion concerning the proposed boycott of the 1968 Olympic Games by US Negro athletes as outlined by Harry Edwards of San Jose State during the Black Youth Conference in Los Angeles, Nov. 23. We are simply desiring to give you an opportunity to express your personal feelings about the boycott as it has been suggested in the Thanksgiving Day meeting.

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dolph Plummer

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Please feel free to add any other comments concerning the proposed boycott: See other side

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Track & Field News is interested to learn your opinion concerning the proposed boycott of the 1968 Olympic Cames by US Nerro athletes as outlined I do not feel that boycotting the olympic games will solve the social in it will be a social in the problems of the United States. The olympic games are politically free over of national questions and should not be used as a arena for the problems Based on the assumption that you would qualify to join the 1968 US O pic squad, which of the following statements best reflects your feeling ton 201 ho If the negro athlete feel it is necessary to take the lead in attempting to solve the social problems of this country they should organize anvone as a body and seek an appointment with the speaker of the house and senate requesting an opportunity to speak to these groups in washington during My personal feelings on the social problem for lack of a better name for the problem is that the negro youth attain more education than my generation, or any previous generation of negros', and each succeeding generation go on to the highestpossible level of education the can,. Communicate with the rest of society for better understanding and black/white will not be a question, but the question will be one theycott:

of ability, not color.

No legislation can make people like other people. (continue on other side)

· ...

Boycotting the olympics will only hurt the athlete who boycotts. There This form letter is being sent only to 55 of the lead will always be the feeling of "I could have did it better", whether true

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Thanks for your cooperation.

Sincercly,

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT Frack & Field News

November 27, 1867

# Jerry Proctor 1 . a'orgen and lo acuso and gruntlen ad Jon fliw and

#### Dear Athlete:

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  - My opinion does not agree with any of the above, as I feel thusly:

Please feel free to add any other comments concerning the proposed boycott: Based on the assumption that this so called boycotting of the 1968 Olympics outlined by Harry Edwards of San Jose State during the Black Youth Conference in Los Angeles, I as a Negro athlete will decide whatever the majority of the athletes decide. If I make the 1968 American Olympic team I do plan on running because I (continue on other side).

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#### (Continued from front side)

an an American. For me or others to say that we will not run in the 1968 Olympics will not be helping the cause of the Negro's . I foreone fill that if we do boycott the 1968 Olympics it will be more of a fall back as far as the Negro's in the United Stats ar(concern ED. Dear Athlete: May God be with every athlete so that he will make a wise

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I will do whatever the majority of the Negro athletes decide.

My present plans are to compete in the 1968 Olympics.

201

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opinion on bock.

I feel that the United States should be represented by the best athlete regardless of have reed, when or religion. I think the boycott will exploit the fort that there is a racial proflem in the United States, but on eather other phanda, when are moter pic squad, which of the following statements best reflects your feelings conhave the some problem and secondarit say with at The boycott is requested to by certain leaders or organizations, by here in America, but I can say that if we are not represented by the best athletes we have this will have america and what she stands for. The problems that are typical of any sty country should remain in that country and attempts while to be made notes - Dolle sob to heme. A house divided by itself cannot stond alone: it takes the two sports to make the whole We must always feep our personal affairs to ourselversure for solving Americas problem is a problem for americans alone. By diversion we show discounty and rando americas manages In optimized modern Ale to prosecul Track port sale it al glow first, last and always. envelope for your con-Thanks for your cooperation. a. and the second second Sincerely. EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT vrack & Field News November 27, 1967 with a tran and the second from the second

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Dave Smith: (in answer to questionnaire)

check plans to compete

I will definitely try to compete, providing of course that I can make the Olympic team. I feel the Olympics are an individual rather than a group effort and we should compete in them as individuals than

No one person should **speak** try to speak for a group of people. I can see their (the boycott leaders') point. But there are two fields where negroes can really excell--entertainment and athletics. If you lhave a chance to do well, you should exploit it.

I 'm wondering if a Harry Edwards has brainwashed Tommie. Some athletes think he has swayed Tommie to his way of thinking. Others think they are doing this just for publicity. Willie Turner

#### Dear Athlete:

Track & Field News is interested to learn your opinion concerning the proposed boycott of the 1968 Olympic Games by US Negro athletes as outlined by Harry Edwards of San Jose State during the Black Youth Conference in Los Angeles, Nov. 23. We are simply desiring to give you an opportunity to express your personal feelings about the boycott as it has been suggested in the Thanksgiving Day meeting.

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SAN JOSE STATE COLLEGE SPORTS INFORMATION BUREAU San Jose, California

Nordy Jensen, Director 294-6414, ext. 2315

#### STATEMENT ON BOYCOTTING THE OLYMPIC GAMES From Lloyd "Bud" Winter SJS Track Coach

"In answer to the question as to how I feel about Tommie Smith's statement that there is 'a good chance that Negro athletes may boycott the 1968 Olympic Games,' I wish to state as follows:

First, I want to say that Tommie Smith has been one of the greatest champions of all time, not only with his athletic performances but because he has always conducted himself as an ideal champion. He has been loyal, he has been a fine team man, he has always said the right and gracious thing and in general has worn the crown well.

You can't blame him for trying to help his race. A victory over hate and bigotry would be even more important than winning the Olympic Games. As I ponder this, I thought that maybe we should consider not what the public thinks about it but what God thinks. It is self evident that the course that best fosters the brotherhood of man is the one to follow. The question then becomes, "What is the best method of achieving this end?"

Maybe boycotting the Olympic Games is one of the few remaining peaceful methods of pricking the public's conscience to act immediately for racial equality.

Rowever, I have always throught of the Olympic Games as the one common ground on which the nations and peoples of the world could get together. I thought the one movement that epitomized the brotherhood of man was the Olympic movement which emphasizes these ideals.

If you could have seen the youth of the world, from both sides of the Iron Curtain, arm in arm, singing, "Auld Lang Syne", at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, you too, would believe that many of the world's hates and problems could be resolved on the playing field of sport.

I spent most of this summer working in the black country of Jamaica, assisting with a program of sports to combat juvenile delinquency and build up their Olympic effort. We worked in the cities, out in the jungle, and even in the prisons. So you see, in a way, I am dedicated to using sports, not boycotting them to assist the youth of the land and to foster the brotherhood of man.

Tomale Smith and Lee Evans, two of the greatest Negro athletes in history, have only said that they may follow Negro leaders suggestions that they boycott the Olympic Games.

I pray that the UJnited States can clear up the problems of racial inequality in the next ten months and that they (Tommie and Lee) will never have to be confronted with a final decision on such drastic action. I

I am appalled that Negro leaders have been driven so far as to consider boycotting a movement that epitomizes the very thing for which they are fighting.

These leaders should ponder long on whether they would be doing their cause more have than good in enforcing such a boycott."

(Coach Winter requests that his entire statement be used due to the point he is developing throughout the above quote. Thenks, Nordy)