HOPKINS ORDER DEMAND TITLE

Admits Act in Barring N.Y. Harrier from Run

Blame for the Jim Crow ruling which prevented Johnson Williams, Schenectady (N.Y.) high school harrier, from competing in the second annual Invitation Interscholastic cross-country run, sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University chapter of Spiked Shoe, in November, has been placed definitely upon Coach Hambleton of the university, the AFRO-AMERICAN has learned.

Not only has Coach Hambleton admitted to "advising" the Schenectady coach to withdraw Williams from the competition, but he has attempted to defend his action by declaring that it was "based exclusively on what he regarded as a sound precedent at the university."

The statement of Coach Hambleton followed publication in the AFRO-AMERICAN of the discrimination and the sending of more than 100 letters by Carl Murphy, editor, to the president, faculty members and members of the board of trustees. The letters, each of which contained a clipping of the news report, said, by way of comment:

"The AFRO-AMERICAN cannot conceive that those who permit this thing to go on at Johns Hopkins University are gentlemen or even ordinarily civilized."

Circulation of the letters and news report caused the Johns Hopkins administration on the part of the university's liberal faculty and student editorial comment from the Johns Hopkins Letter, student publication. Meanwhile, Felix Bendann, president of the Hopkins chapter of the National Collegiate Society of Spiked Shoes, admitted that Williams had been kept out of the race at the request of the Baltimore high school teams, but gave no justification for such action in the light of his organization's legal constitution. The Hopkins chapter, he added, was unanimously opposed to barring the colored runner.

Team Was Second.

The Schenectady team placed second in the meet with one point less than the score of the victor. Since Williams was one of the team's best runners, it was pointed out that had he run it is very likely that his team would have won first honors.

It was suggested by the Liberal Club that Coach Hambleton had ruled that Williams be barred because he feared difficulties might be raised by local high schools in which he holds a teaching position.

Coach Hambleton denied that he had ordered the barring of Williams in order to protect the teaching position in local high schools. On the contrary, he declared that his action was prompted by the fact that "he believed the high school coach question would ultimately voice objections."

University authorities disclaimed any responsibility in the matter, saying that the institution's athletic facilities are placed at the disposal of an independent organization. On previous occasions, colored athletes have been barred from the Hopkins field, and it was only after a lengthy protest that they were permitted to take part in the pre-Olympic trials, which were held at Hopkins in June under the South Atlantic branch of the A.A.U.

The following editorial, with the caption, "Jack-in-the-Box," appeared in the News-Letter:

"The race question is always with us. After having hovered around the outskirts of our civilized campus life it is being more and more forced upon our attention by the action of our fellow students and the local colored press.

At present the concern is about the recent barring of a prominent New York high school student from the cross-country meet promoted by the Spiked Shoe at the Hopkins. The Liberal Club attempted to investigate the conditions of the barring but could get no further than the knowledge that Coach Hambleton, for reasons unknown, had made the ruling. In the meantime the AFRO-AMERICAN has taken up the affair.

As what method a conscientious seeker after interracial amity should pursue in protesting a development of this sort we are at a loss to suggest. Intellectually it generally practically forces a reaction of some sort. But there is the constant problem of how to go about achieving any readjustment of relations between white and colored people.

Frankly and clearly, the whole affair is based on prejudice. Any further discussion of the bound to be artificial because the whole affair of Negro inferiority has grown from a conceited relationship on the part of white men that their own advantages were more numerous than are those of the Negroes. Some men are more intent than others in their opinion and so sometimes intermingling of races to some, extent, but still creating the line on social and personal association.

In the face of conditions as they are, however, it seems at first blush to be poor tactics to continue to force the prejudiced to explain away their every attack upon them only causes them to erect further into their social shells and to build up more and more rationalization for their mental bias. Reason involved in such circumstances is violence and is the cloak for a passion, to borrow the idea advanced by Prof. Reinhold Neibuhr in Moods, April issue.

Nothing but trial and error will ever be found the proper method of achieving reform. Have no objection to forcing prejudiced opinions by rationalizing their actions is obvious.

Opinions Vary.

Among responses received to the question put to students by the Liberal Club are the following:

PROF. ERNEST FEISE: "You know of my stand in racial questions. I shall try to do something in the matter, although—as you may know—the faculty has little to do with athletics . . . I may be able to bring the matter to the attention of people interested in athletics . . ."

DR. HOWARD A. KELLY: "I am sorry for such discriminations as I have noted in your clipping, but as a matter of fact it will each religious sect, they are obviously gradually yielding to a new spirit. I am afraid we none of us in the highest sense are the true gentlemen, and without any question, the spirit of Christ is not one of civilization, which can come only by the new birth from above and the teaching of our common Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

NEWTON D. BAKER, Cleveland, Trustee: "Letters of this sort go to the executive of the college, and as I am a trustee at large, I hand the letter over to the facts except as they are produced in trustees' meetings, or training from comment."

PROF. NEIL E. GORDON: "The facts are that I knew nothing about the matter, and I do not think I make any protest of this type, I should, if you wish, bring it to the president. Dr. Joseph S. Ames."

'Unsportsmanlike.'

DR. E. V. MCCOLLUM: "I regret very much that such an action has been taken. It is unsportsmanlike and unfair."

PROF. DAVID N. ROBINSON: "I thank you for sending me the clipping. I shall do what I may I am sent to me as I have obviously nothing to do with the matter. But I