

Transcript of a televised editorial

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Former Senator, Jesse Helms was once the Executive Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Board of WRAL television in the 1960s. This transcript from the "Viewpoints" editorial program of November 26, 1968 explains the conservative viewpoint of Mr. Helms regarding the appearance of "Black Power" activist Stokely Carmichael at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Bottom of page two reads: For Bill- This evidently went to all members of the General Assembly. If it is a prelude to another chapter of Speaker Ban in the legislature, the friends of the University will be needing some guide-line ammunition. I realize Jesse is a firebrand, albiet on the far right, but its always wise to be alert & prepared. - Art Jones

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WRAL-TV VIEWPOINT

An Editorial Expression of the Voice of Free Enterprise in Raleigh - Durham

Jesse Helms, Executive Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Board



1976/11-26-68

The appearances of Stokely Carmichael last week on the campuses of several North Carolina colleges and universities, including ones owned and financed by the taxpayers, served the useful purpose of emphasizing the worthy intentions of the 1963 General Assembly which enacted the original communist speaker ban law. The appearances of this highly-publicized advocate of violence also supply a measurement of the responsibility--or the lack of it--of college administrators who loudly condemned the 1963 legislature for what was claimed to be an invasion of "academic freedom".

To be sure, the 1963 law was two years later watered down to the point of emasculation by a timid and frightened legislature which surrendered to threats and intimidation chorused by a gaggle of leftwing editors and educators. And, thereafter, even the tattered remnants of the law were set aside by a federal court. This series of events was regarded by some campus administrators as, no doubt, a mandate to permit anybody--no matter how violent, or crude, or treasonous--to make free use of facilities created and maintained by the taxpayers of this state.

There are a number of things that ought to be considered in the aftermath of this episode. First of all--and obviously this doesn't matter to some politicians and educators--there is what appears to be almost unanimous resentment among the citizens of this state that Carmichael was given the respectability of a forum--at the taxpayers' expense--on the campuses of the University of North Carolina. Copies of letters written by outraged citizens, and addressed to Governor Moore and to University officials, are flowing across our desk. The Governor, even if he does have only a month left in office, owes the public some explanation. And the University trustees ought to produce someone in their midst willing to represent the public concern.

Secondly, the public should not be misled into the false assumption that the Carmichael appearances amounted to nothing. There were many declarations, during the months that the Speaker Ban Law was under assault, that college students of today are "too mature to be deceived"--that they are able to "see through" a phony rabble-rouser. Let the record show, if news reports are accurate, that there were 5,000 on hand for Stokely Carmichael's speech at Chapel Hill, that he was given a standing ovation when he entered

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A. J. Fletcher, Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer, Capitol Broadcasting Company
(Operators of WRAL-TV and WRAL-FM, Raleigh, N. C.)

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