

STATEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL 13, 1988

The University of Kentucky Board of Trustees is saddened by the statement made by a fellow board member at a committee meeting prior to our Board meeting last week. We understand and agree with the concern that has been expressed regarding this matter. We are encouraged by former Governor Chandler's willingness to make public apologies for his remark.

Over the years, the Board has promoted and the University has carried out numerous programs to recruit and retain minority faculty, staff and students. As a result of these efforts significant strides have been made in the area of human relations at the University. The present situation emphasizes the importance of the institution continuing aggressive actions in human relations.

We are committed to the creation of an atmosphere where all persons are welcomed and feel comfortable pursuing their work and studies at this institution. We want to emphasize the strong commitment of the Board of Trustees to equal opportunity and fair treatment for all. The Board will continue to support program enhancements for the recruitment and retention of minority faculty, staff and students as a high priority for the University.

We expect all members of the University community to be fully supportive of our goals related to affirmative action and equal opportunity.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506-0055

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
CHEMISTRY-PHYSICS BUILDING
TELEPHONE 606-257-4741

April 7, 1988

Governor A. B. "Happy" Chandler
Board of Trustees
The University of Kentucky
104 Administration Building
CAMPUS 0032

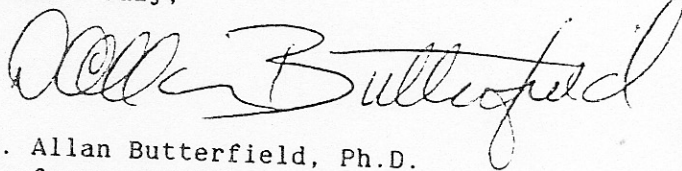
Dear Governor Chandler:

Your unfortunate comments regarding Zimbabwe are a source of grave concern to us since you are a representative of The University of Kentucky.

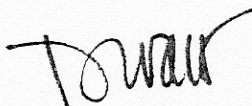
However harmless you may personally feel these comments were, they reflect poorly upon this University which actively strives for racial equality.

Despite your otherwise unblemished record in this area, we feel that in the interest of the University and the Commonwealth, you should resign from the Board of Trustees.

Yours truly,



D. Allan Butterfield, Ph.D.
Professor of Chemistry;
Director, Center of Membrane Sciences;
and Associate, Sanders-Brown Research
Center on Aging



David Watt
Professor and Chairman

/jec

RECEIVED

Chandler Apologizes For Racial Remark

Associated Press

VERSAILLES, Ky. — Former baseball commissioner and Kentucky governor A.B. "Happy" Chandler apologized Thursday for a racial remark he made, but calls continued for his resignation from the University of Kentucky's Board of Trustees.

Kentucky's football team halted spring drills for a day. The team will resume practice today but will participate in a rally calling for Chandler's resignation.

Chandler denied he was a racist and said his record on race issues should be

enough to convince anyone of his concern for minorities.

"I don't reckon there's anybody in this lifetime has made any greater contribution to race relations and good feelings between black and white people than your humble servant, and I think the record will show that," Chandler said at a news conference.

The remark that touched off the furor was made Tuesday when Chandler, 89, was attending an investments committee meeting of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees. The university decided in 1985 to dispose of its

investments in South Africa because of its racial policies.

"You know Zimbabwe's all nigger now. There aren't any whites," Chandler said.

The comment prompted a storm of protest, including the football team's action.

Players said they may not participate in the spring game scheduled for April 16 unless Chandler is off the board.

Coach Jerry Claiborne said he sided with the players.

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson, a political ally who restored Chandler to a voting

position on the board this year, said Wednesday Chandler should apologize.

Wilkinson did not ask for his resignation from the board, but during a conversation Thursday, "took me to the woodshed" for the remark, Chandler said.

"I didn't intentionally mean to be offensive to anybody," said Chandler.

Other officials in the Lexington area also joined in the call for Chandler to leave the board. A group of elected officials scheduled a news conference for today to call on Wilkinson to ask for Chandler's resignation.

DOROTHY GILLIAM

Crushing Tolerance for Racism At University of Kentucky

At 89, former Kentucky governor A.B. (Happy) Chandler has amazing agility. He has the ability to put both feet in his mouth.

Last Tuesday night, during a committee meeting of the University of Kentucky board of trustees at which a ban on university investment in South Africa was being discussed, Chandler remarked, "You know Zimbabwe is all nigger now. There aren't any whites."

After about 40 students marched on the university the next day demanding that Chandler either apologize or resign as a trustee, Chandler offered this "apology":

"I did say it. I wish I hadn't. I know enough about what's going on in the world to know there's a lot of people who, if you call them nigger now, they are going to object to it."

In short, his only regret seemed to have been that he made the slur out loud.

"After the apology," moaned state Sen. Michael Moloney, in classic understatement, Chandler "went back into the same routine again and it exacerbated the situation."

As elected officials and community leaders joined the students in demanding that Chandler quit, Moloney disputed Chandler's contention that the term did not offend blacks when it was used when he was growing up in western Kentucky. "Mr. Chandler may look upon those days with fond affection, [but] most blacks recoil to the statements privately then and publicly now."

Indeed, added Lexington council member Mike Wilson, Chandler's use of the word "nigger" in a public meeting far outshaded his public accomplishment of presiding as baseball commissioner when Jackie Robinson became the first black in the major leagues.

In a country that is dedicated to integrated public education, it's awful that Chandler's presence as a trustee of a publicly funded university still would be tolerated nearly a week after he made such remarks. Furthermore, at a time when there is widespread concern about the drop in minority college enrollees, sensitive trustees are needed more than ever.

United Press International estimated that 100 students—about half of them

Kentucky football players in blue and white jerseys who pledged to boycott the 1988 season if Chandler does not resign—marched the half-mile from campus to City Hall on Friday, chanting "Happy's gotta go, Happy's gotta go."

But why should these students have to march for his resignation? Why aren't the other trustees speaking out? As of Friday, only one trustee had publicly dissociated herself from the remarks. Why hasn't Democratic Gov. Wallace Wilkinson moved to make Chandler resign? It shouldn't take student protests and football players threatening to boycott the season to make him sensitive to Chandler's faux pas.

Remaining adamant, Chandler reportedly said he would not resign unless Wilkinson asked him to and added that the governor told him he would never ask for his resignation.

But if Chandler's words about a far-off African country revealed the deep-seated prejudices that seem to shape his view of the world, they also prompted the students to face up to discomfort they had been tolerating right on campus. According to Patricia Muhammed, a leader of student protests, black students also want to stop the singing of "Ol' Kentucky Home" at all major events and will present that demand as "an agenda of concern," next week. "The lyrics are offensive," she said.

Here are some of the lyrics of that nifty tune, written by Stephen C. Foster:

"The sun shines bright in the ol'
Kentucky Home
" 'Tis Summer, the darkies are gay
...."

Yet another stanza contains the words:

"The head must bow and the back
will have to bend
"Wherever the darky may go"

According to Muhammed, "Happy Chandler wants everyone to sing this . . . and the basketball players and athletes have to cry. They say it should be sung slowly and with expression."

Chandler's remarks shouldn't be dismissed as just those of a harmless old crank. He should resign because he has not changed his attitude. He is in a position of quiet power. Indeed, he has the power to support his prejudices.

Kentucky students unhappy with racial slur by Chandler

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Former baseball commissioner A.B. "Happy" Chandler apologized Wednesday for a racial slur that had triggered strong protests and a call for his resignation from the University of Kentucky board of trustees.

Chandler, a two-time Kentucky governor and U.S. senator who was commissioner in 1947 when Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier, uttered the racial epithet Tuesday during a committee's discussion of the university's 1985 decision to dispose of its investments in South Africa.

"You know Zimbabwe's all nigger now. There aren't any whites," Chandler said during a meeting of

the investments committee. About one-third of the 20 board members were present.

"They're trying to make a mountain out of a molehill," the 89-year-old Chandler said Wednesday.

He initially had said he didn't plan to apologize unless asked to do so by UK president David Roselle or Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

However, Wilkinson, who appointed Chandler to a voting position on the university governing board earlier this year, said an apology was in order, and Chandler made it in newspaper interviews.

"If it is offensive, I'm ready to say I'm just really sad and sorry," Chandler said. "In other words, my head is bloody but unbowed."

He said he realizes some people are offended now by the remark. "It slips out every now and then. I'm not trying to be offensive."

Asked whether an apology was enough, Wilkinson said: "I think it's a beginning. He'll have to decide what's enough."

About 40 UK students representing six organizations marched to the administration building on Wednesday to meet with Roselle. One carried a placard saying, "Hopefully Happy is Sad," and others shouted "We wanna know!" the reason for Chandler's remark.

The UK Student Government Association approved a resolution Wednesday night calling for Chandler's resignation from the regents.

OPEN EASTER SUNDAY

Hardin said Wednesday of the tournament.

"I can understand Mr. Hardin's but I don't think they're

son said. "as on how

Kentucky football team protests Chandler's slur

By Todd Murphy
USA TODAY

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The University of Kentucky football joined the chorus of voices calling for the resignation of former governor and baseball commissioner A.B. "Happy" Chandler from the school's board of trustees because of racist remarks he made.

Chandler sparked the storm Tuesday while discussing the university's 1985 decision to dispose of its investments in South African. He said: "You know Zimbabwe's all nigger now. There aren't any whites."

The Kentucky football team boycotted Thursday's practice in protest of his remark. Players plan to resume practice Friday, but will participate in a rally calling for Chandler's resignation. They also plan to wear black armbands until Chandler is off the board.

Players said they may not participate in the spring Blue-White game on April 16 unless Chandler is off the board.

Chandler apologized Thursday but said he was not a racist. He also said he saw no reason to resign from the board.