



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Howard University, Dunbarton Campus — 2900 Van Ness St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008 — Notre Dame Hall (202) 686-6686

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Research Staff

FROM: Floyd W. Hayes, III
Research Fellow

RE: The Institute of the Black World Black Studies
Curriculum Development Project Conference,
Atlanta University and the Ladha Hotel Downtown,
Atlanta, Georgia, October 1-3, 1981.

DATE: October 7, 1981

Attached herewith are my personal observations and evaluation of this historic gathering. Because I represented the Institute, because of our concern for issues related to the educational development of Afro-Americans and because of our desire for social change, I feel compelled to share these remarks with you.

I should be particularly happy to talk with anyone about the conference.

Bro. McHarter,

I thought you might be interested in this conference and wanted to share the attached with you.

Be strong,

Floyd

THE INSTITUTE OF THE BLACK WORLD
BLACK STUDIES CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT CONFERENCE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
OCTOBER 1-3, 1981

When I became familiar with the IBW Black Studies Curriculum Development Project, I had high hopes for a successful effort which would culminate in a significant conference. I looked forward to a meeting that would examine critically African American Studies in terms of its trends, developments and future challenges. Although I no longer teach African American Studies as such, I am tied both emotionally and intellectually to this important and significant educational enterprise. Well, the conference far exceeded my highest expectations! Some of the leading scholars, writers and thinkers in the discipline of African American Studies participated. This is the first conference that I have ever attended where the level of intellectual discussion, exchange and critique was so brilliant, precise and clear and where there was such a conscious commitment to social change and to the struggle for authentic African (in its broadest meaning) liberation.

I must say, at the outset, that my comments do not/cannot touch every aspect of the conference. It is impossible for a single person to have grasped the total magnitude of the serious and committed work which transpired. Other participants are certain to write their own assessments of this historic gathering. Hopefully, these can be shared. Finally, I write as a participant and not as an observer. Thus, I did not see or hear everything and share with you only a portion of what took place. Nevertheless, I try to be as accurate as possible.