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HENRY BELK,
EDITOR

May 2, 1961

Dr. Leo Jenkins, President
East Carolina College
Greenville, North Carolina

Dear Leo:

I hope to attend the meeting of the Board on ~~May 27.~~
However, if anything prevents my getting there I wish
you would submit the following to the board as my preference.

The college cannot much longer refuse to admit non-
white students who fully and completely qualify. As you
know, State College, the University at Chapel Hill and
Woman's College have granted such admissions for the past
few years.

And you have noted the recent action of trustees of
Wake Forest, a non-state supported institution, in opening
their graduate department to qualified students.

We would be doing only what others are doing to put
East Carolina quietly and without fanfare into the new
stream. If we do not so act we shall in due time be the
object of attention which might cause much more repercussions
and reactions than admitting a few qualified ones.

There is every evidence from Washington that regulations
concerning discrimination will be carefully observed. We
have made loans from Federal agencies, we want to be in line
for such aid as we may require in the future. A policy of
non-discrimination would be helpful. A policy of barring
non-whites may even see the college denied aid in some
fields.

The board now is authorized under the charter to make
a decision. The ban on other than white students was removed
under the charter adopted when the Higher Board reorganization
was put through. You will recall that originally the charter
specified the college was for "white" students. When the new
charter was passed by the Legislature, it evidently was
anticipated that the college should be in position to act as
wisdom indicated.

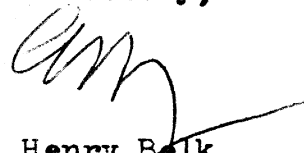
Dr. Leo W. Jenkins

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I will not sit on the platform at the commencement on May 21.

Be assured at all times of my continued interest in and work for the college. I am sure that we meet today's changing world in the growth in quality, facilities and scholarship at East Carolina.

Sincerely,



Henry Belk
Editor

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