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Gertrude B. Perry

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MUH. 70

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY HISOTRY

AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH: Mrs. Gertrude B. Perry

CONDUCTED BY: David Lucas

DATE OF INTERVIEW: December 10, 1990

Lucas: ...Lucas, and I'm in an interview with Mrs. Fred L. Perry, former president of the Huntington Women's Club. We are discussing the topic of SDS, uh, the group on uh, present on Marshall University in February of 1969. Mrs. Perry, what uh, what is possibly the concern of the women's club regarding SDS on Marshall University...why...why would the woman's club have a uh, a problem with the group on the university?

Perry: Well, the members of the woman's club of Huntington at that time uh, had a membership of a thousand women, which in...it encompasses a lot of families and a lot of them probably had either children in Marshall or grandchildren in Marshall University. And uh, the concern from the citizens of Huntington, came to the women's club of Huntington's attention. And therefore, we came up with a recommendation to write letters to Marshall University saying the three things we felt ...we believed that should not happen on the campus, because of the citizens of Huntington at that time, we did have complete cooperation with all the city council, the mayor and all because of that large membership of the club.

Lucas: Alright. So did you feel that SDS presented possibly a threat to the community uh....

Perry: Evidently that is what the citizens felt. Now this is not my thinking. I'm not speaking as an individual...just as an individual (right), as president of the club. I'm speaking of all the membership of the club.

Lucas: Alright, okay.

Perry: All this is just my thinking.

Lucas: That's right. Uh, in your mind, SDS is Students for Democratic Society uh, they were...they were a left-wing radical group, as the letter states here.

Perry: That's what the letter states.

Lucas: Uh, do you have any recollection of the group at all?

Perry: No, I do not. I can't recall it (right), but I do know that at that time uh, we had a presentative on the Campus Christian Center, to direct from our woman's club (right), and at that time we were interested in it, having promoted it and therefore we felt that this was a rebellion against the religious feeling of uh, of the Campus Christian Center.

Lucas: Okay, so basically, what you're saying then is that uh, that the Campus Christian Center was using or SDS was using the Campus Christian Center as a front then? (well, that seems...) For their organization?

Perry: That seems to be what I can...I can recall.

Lucas: Okay, that's fine.

END OF INTERVIEW



HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701

ORAL HISTORY

GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, GERTRUDE B. PERRY (MRS. FRED L.), the undersigned, of
402 10TH AVE W. HUN, WV., County of CABELL, State
of WEST VIRGINIA, grant, convey, and transfer
to the James E. Morrow Library Associates, a division of The
Marshall University Foundation, INC., an educational and
eleemosynary institution, all my right, title, interest, and
literary property rights in and to my testimony recorded on
10 DECEMBER, 1990, to be used for scholarly
purposes, including study and rights to reproduction.

GBP Open and usable immediately.
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(initial)

_____ Closed for my lifetime unless special
(initial) permission is gained from me or my assigns.

DATE: Dec. 10, 1990

Gertrude B. Perry (Mrs. Fred L.)
(Signature - Interviewee)

402 10TH AVE W HUN, WV.
(Address)

DATE: 10 DECEMBER

[Signature]
(Signature - Witness)



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