

# Katzenbach Skirts Demand To Prosecute Carmichael

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WASHINGTON — Attorney General Katzenbach has a "Black Panther" by the tail and doesn't know whether to try to bell it or let go.

The militant "cat" is Stokley Carmichael, 25-year-old organizer of the Black Panther Negro Party and the head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

A group of Ohio legislators led by Representatives Robert Sweeney, D, and Wayne Hays, D, both strong civil right advocates, have bluntly notified Katzenbach to either end his vacillating on Carmichael or they will go directly to President Johnson and demand forceful action.

For more than a month the lawmakers have bombarded the attorney general with letters, telephone calls and telegrams urging prosecution of Carmichael for telling Cleveland Negroes to defy the Selective Service law and not register for the draft.

But Katzenbach has done nothing.

All Sweeney and Hays have gotten from him is a polite brush-off over the phone and form letters signed by aides that Katzenbach had their correspondence.

Still unanswered is a letter citing Carmichael's inflammable anti-draft statements and urging his prosecution as a deliberate law violator.

"We wish to draw your attention to the fact that Stokley Carmichael made an appearance in Cleveland recently in an effort to stir up sentiment against the war in Viet Nam," the legislators wrote. "As part of his presentation, Carmichael counseled his audience, in excess of 500, that they should absolutely refuse to comply with the provisions of the Universal Military Training and Service Act."

**CITING THE LAW** — Flatly branding Carmichael as "a dangerous American who appears on the scene with the obvious purpose of fomenting riots in our cities," the Ohioans continued:

"We are advised that the penal provisions of the Universal Military Training and Service Act . . . do apply against such persons as Carmichael who would undertake to not only ridicule the military, but to counsel others to avoid compliance with

the orders of the Selective Service System.

"Accordingly, we are requesting that the Department of Justice forthwith commence proceedings of a criminal nature, applying the penal provisions of the draft law against Carmichael.

"As members of Congress, we have sensed that action of a criminal nature would have been initiated long ago were it not for the fact that this individual has been parading about the land masquerading as a supposed civil rights leader. We are of the opinion that if left unchecked by the government, such dangerous Americans as Carmichael could and will pro-

mote riots of sizable dimension in our cities and succeed in the development of a pattern of anarchy in many parts of the land."

Should Katzenbach continue to ignore their insistence that Carmichael be prosecuted, the legislators will seek a congressional probe.

"The Carmichael case involves much more than just one person advocating defiance of the draft law," says Representative Sweeney. "The question is whether the attorney general is practicing a double standard of justice; one for civil rights violators and another for civil rights leaders who violate the law."



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