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Legislature Get's Governor Agnew's Budget

Wilson States Concern For Budget Cuts

Ed Note:

The following are excerpts from a letter written Dec. 28, 1967 to Mr. B. Melvin Cole, Program executive-Educational Affairs of the Governor's office by Mr. William W. Wilson, President of The Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Colleges.

Dear Mr. Cole:

Thank you for your letter of December 21 pertaining to the possibility of the elimination of the free tuition teacher education waiver program and the campus elementary schools in the Executive Budget.

Before discussing the two programs, I want to express in the strongest possible way my concern for the budget cuts that have already been established for the State College System. They will do serious damage to the development of the State College System and in my judgment reflect a lack of real and meaningful concern on the part of the Governor for the development of the State College System . . . The Board of Trustees is appreciative of the fact that it was asked to help direct the budget cuts.

. . . The budget cut recommendations of the Board did not include the elimination of the teacher education waiver program nor the elimination of the campus elementary schools. If the Governor does impose decisions of this magnitude on the Board, it represents a serious violation of Executive Authority. It would meet with unqualified opposition from the Board of Trustees. I seriously question whether the fiscal situation of the State is so desperate that major questions of educational policy have to be answered by the most arbitrary and narrow economies.

With regard to the campus elementary schools, the Board does have a recommendation from a consultant that the campus schools be eliminated and their resources reallocated to other areas of the teacher education-instructional program. The Board has this recommendation under serious consideration. At the heart of the recommendation is not economy, but the need to strengthen the total educational program of the State College System . . . An elimination of the campus elementary schools by the Governor would represent a serious violation of Board responsibility and do serious damage to the instructional program of the State College System.

The Board of Trustees carefully re-examined the free tuition teacher education program in 1965. The Board concluded at that time that the program was indispensable to the development of teacher education programs in

Pres. Morey Addresses Agnew About 'Rumors'



DR. JOHN H. MOREY

Ed Note: This is a copy of a letter sent to Governor Spiro T. Agnew by Dr. John Morey on Dec. 22, 1967 concerning the rumors of the proposed cuts to State College budgets.

Dear Governor Agnew:

In writing directly to you at this time, I am aware of my responsibility to my Board of Trustees and of my responsibility to you as Governor, but I am also mindful of the responsibility I have to the students, faculty, and administration of the College I serve. As President of Frostburg State College I have worked to serve my Board and with them, to serve you and the people of Maryland, and it is in the spirit of service that I write to you now.

I must express my deep concern over the reductions made in the budget request of Frostburg and of the other state colleges, but my concern is chiefly with the manner in which budget decisions have been made. First, I wish to emphasize my sensitivity to the problems you face in sustaining the varied programs and services of the State with limited and uncertain funds. I am not protecting or lamenting the fact that Frostburg or the other state colleges did not receive what they requested. I understand completely that it is impossible for you to meet those requests fully.

After our budget was submitted we were informed that severe reductions would have to be made

the State of Maryland. The Board did however, strengthen the total administration of the program and this has been implemented over the last two years. Information available at this time clearly indicates that the elimination of the program would do serious damage to the development of the teacher education programs in the State College System.

Sincerely,
William L. Wilson,
President
Board of Trustees of the
Maryland State Colleges.

and, in line with policies set down by your Program Executive for Education, we were asked to make the necessary cuts. What the budgetary facts are we are quite prepared to face; we ask only that we be consulted concerning the cuts to be made. I am now distressed to learn that, in addition to cuts already made by the colleges, additional and substantial cuts may be made — cuts which would seriously affect the present educational program of the colleges. I refer specifically to the recommendation to eliminate the laboratory schools in the state colleges, and to cancel the free tuition program for teacher education. I must emphasize, again, that my concern is not that the cuts have been made, but that the cuts were made without consultation with the colleges. Any educational institution that hopes to discharge its strong responsibility to the people it serves must have the opportunity to make its own decisions about educational policy.

When I assumed the presidency of Frostburg State College in July 1965, I pledged my best efforts to implement the development of a strong liberal arts program and to help strengthen the college's teacher education program. Indeed, my decision to accept the presidency at Frostburg was largely based on my conviction that the State was firmly and totally committed to the development of a strong state college system. I am now concerned about the extent to which the State will be committed to the development of and the achievement of excellence in the state colleges. Without such a commitment, which must pervade administrative decision-making procedures as well as budget-

(Continued On Page 2)

Tuition Waiver, Lab School In Jeopardy

The 1968 Maryland General Assembly will receive proposals from Governor Spiro T. Agnew tomorrow which would eliminate two teacher education programs of the Maryland State Colleges. The Governor's proposals would eliminate the laboratory schools used for practice teaching on the campuses, and the tuition waiver for college students who pledge to teach in Maryland schools for two years after graduation. As they are understood by the Board of Trustees these cutbacks would not affect students already in college.

Opposition to the Governor's plans is quickly mounting. Frostburg's President John H. Morey has written to the governor expressing his "deep concern over the reductions made in the budget request of Frostburg and of the other state colleges, but," continues the President, "my concern is chiefly with the manner in which budget decisions have been made." Board chairman William L. Wilson, in a letter to the governor's office, points out that elimination of the two education programs would represent a "serious violation of executive authority."

The board revealed during its meeting Monday, January 8, at Morgan State College that it has already reduced its proposed 1968-69 budget in line with instructions



GOV. SPIRO T. AGNEW

from state budget officials. At the direction of the officials, the board trimmed its requested \$5.9 million increase in state funds by about 60 percent.

Governor Agnew says he wants to phase out what he calls the "totally inadequate" scholarship program and at the same time expand the state's higher educational loan program. Maryland now spends more than \$3 million annually on scholarships. Agnew's program would eliminate all scholarships by 1973 except those for medical, dental and nursing students.

According to the governor's estimates the new program will provide some \$85 million in aid over the next five years at a cost of only \$16.5 million to the state. The present system would provide only \$26 million to students with the state absorbing the entire cost. The governor said that the increased amount available to students as loans—\$1,000 for undergraduates, \$1,500 for graduate students—could be used at out of state colleges and at vocational technical schools now barred from state scholarship aid, as well as at all public and private colleges in Maryland.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?	
Maryland, the second fastest growing state east of the Mississippi:	
	Rank among states
1. Population	20
2. Per capita income	10
3. Aid to higher education	39

Final '69 Budget Cuts Made Without Consideration For Educational Objectives

Editor's Note: The following is a brief history of the 1969 Fiscal Budget of Frostburg State College.

Initially the administration of Frostburg State College drew up and submitted a budget for the Fiscal Year 1969 to the Board of Trustees. This Budget, prepared during the summer of 1967, requested \$1.1 million more than was granted to Frostburg for the year 1968.

However, when all the budgets of the state colleges were submitted by the Board of Trustees to Governor Spiro T. Agnew, the Board was instructed to decrease

their total requests of 59.8 per cent.

The budgets were then sent back to the state colleges with the instructions to make the necessary cuts.

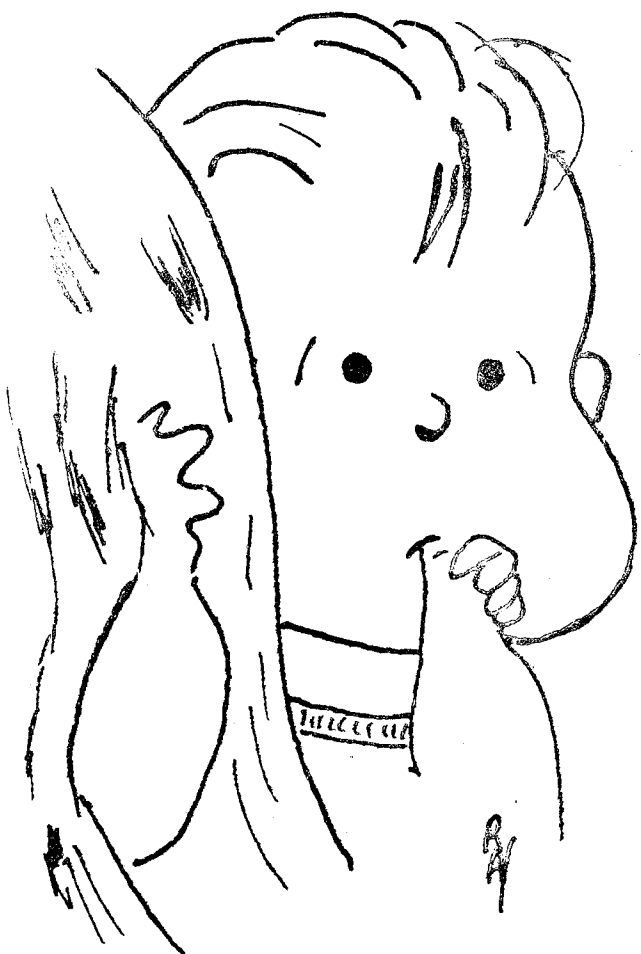
Frostburg State was instructed to delete \$614,513 from its proposed budget. Around the first of December President Morey, Dean Guild and Mr. Culkin, the Director of Financial Affairs, made the necessary cuts within 48 hours from the time they were notified that deletions were necessary.

After this budget was re-submitted by the Board of Trustees to the Governor, rumors reached the Board that officials in Balti-

more had proposed more cuts without consulting any college officials.

The state colleges' budgets, with final deletions made by the non-college officials, are included in the Governor's budget which will be submitted to the Maryland General Assembly tomorrow.

When Frostburg's budget was re-submitted to the Board of Trustees, only 44 per cent of the initial requested increase had been retained. With the proposed cuts by the Governor's office the financial increases over the '68 fiscal year will be even less than this.



Gee, I'm glad I have my blanket . . . Spiro took away my chances for an education.

Editorial Comment

The Governor's Whim

Once again Maryland's Governor, Spiro T. Agnew, has slashed the budget of the state colleges. Last year the Governor told the Board of Trustees to reduce their total requests by thirty per cent. And this year the Governor has ordered the Board to delete fifty-nine per cent of its proposed budget for the fiscal year 1969, and when the colleges complied with this the Governor made additional deletions, including the proposals for the tuition waiver program and the laboratory schools, without consulting the colleges.

The deletions imposed on the state colleges by the Governor can do nothing but herald the doom of a blossoming higher educational system in the State of Maryland. Because of the slashes in the budget, the Board of Trustees has been forced to abandon a three-year plan aimed at making the salaries of teachers in the state colleges equal with the salaries of instructors at the University of Maryland. Since state colleges compete with the University of Maryland, and other universities, for faculty they are at an obvious disadvantage because of the large discrepancies between the pay scales. When the program was announced a year ago, high hopes sprang up that the state colleges would some day reach an equal par with the University. It appears that Governor Agnew has stifled that hope. The state colleges are still second rate institutions of education.

While cutting the tuition waiver program from the Executive Budget, the Republican Governor has announced his own plan whereby the funds from both the State Senatorial Scholarships and the tuition waiver plan would be re-channeled into a student loan program. Taking the higher educational funds from the hands of politicians is definitely a step in the right direction; and if the tuition stays at the present rate per semester, then this program in itself is good. However, if the state colleges are forced to become self-supporting then the tuition will naturally rise. Will the loan program work then? Or will students discover that it is just as expensive, if not cheaper, to attend an out of state school?

Governor Agnew's slashes at the budget have crippled a running system. Bringing visiting lecturers to the campuses will have to be stopped, due to lack of funds. The graduate program at Frostburg will have to phase out, due to lack of funds. Reducing the student-teacher ration at Frostburg from 16-1 to 15-1 will have to be forgotten for at least another year. Across-the-board raises for the instructors will have to be denied. In short, the future planning by the present administration will fade into the past.

If the Governor's present budget is passed by the General Assembly, the precedent will be established that any governor who desires to end an established program in the state college system can do so without consideration to their educational value, by merely withholding funds for that program. The Governor has overstepped his bounds. Why must a state that ranks twentieth in population growth and tenth in per capita income be listed thirty-ninth in aid to higher education? The Governor should realize that the higher education institutions of Maryland need more aid; and the Governor should realize that progress must be made in that direction if higher education is to become worthwhile in Maryland.

We feel that Governor Agnew should review his present budget and partially restore the slashes made in the requests of the Board of Trustees for the state colleges. The state colleges must be given respect and a voice in the direction of their own affairs. The college is better equipped to judge what is important in the hierarchy of educational values than the office of the Governor. America's boiling society in an age of advanced technology needs higher education that

Morey's Letter . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

building, the State must face the clear and inevitable consequence that the state college system, if it survives at all, is doomed to mediocrity. Considering the manifold weakness and the scars of the strife-torn past which I inherited at Frostburg, the college since 1965 has made substantial strides towards its goals, and those of the Board of Trustees. I have succeeded in attracting to my staff a number of highly able and ambitious persons for both administrative and faculty positions. The dark clouds which hung over the campus three years ago, and which placed the college's regional accreditation in serious jeopardy, have been largely dispersed by fresh winds of talent and of hope for the future.

As the only four-year institution of higher education in the state west of Frederick, Frostburg has a magnificent potential for serving the educational needs of Marylanders and for contributing to the economic and cultural enrichment of Western Maryland. In our remote location, we must have at our disposal the resources necessary to attract the best talent we can find to build the college into what we know it can be, though we realize that in all cases we shall never have all that we need. Our earnest plea is only that we have the opportunity to determine the cuts that will basically affect our educational program. We must have assurance that we shall be free to develop our academic programs on the basis of sound academic decisions, knowing that decisions are inevitably influenced by budgetary facts. But, when decisions are made in Baltimore by officials who do not and, until they come to Frostburg, cannot know what we are attempting to build or why, we cannot hope to attract persons of ability and vision with promises of well-developed academic programs. To be quite specific, let me cite a present problem:

Under Board of Trustees' direction we have been carrying on a careful review of the laboratory school program in line with Board decisions we have informed our Department of Education and the faculty of the laboratory school that a final decision concerning the reallocation of resources of the laboratory schools would be made in mid-1968. Now, reports have reached me that the state college laboratory schools will receive no General Fund support for fiscal 1969; indeed it appears

will thoroughly quench the present thirst of knowledge, and yet firmly instill a striving toward understanding future knowledge. Only in a state that values and gives its full support to higher education can a citizen ever begin to satisfy his knowledge search. Long range planning must become reality today, for tomorrow a much larger plan will formulate.



Such a lovely snow!!

that with the abrupt termination of support, no reallocation of resources will be possible. The decision which we were in the process of making on sound educational grounds seems to have been made for us, without consultation, on fiscal grounds. In the meantime, I must now face the charge that I have dealt with my staff and with the community in bad faith, or that I failed to communicate effectively with your staff. In addition, I am now obliged to make unilateral academic decisions which violate the procedures of this college for making such decisions, and which can seriously alter the size and composition of next year's freshman class.

I must take steps to curtail the college's program in kindergarten-primary education, since the program clearly is of no value if the students have no opportunity for student teaching. The kindergarten of the Thomas G. Pullen laboratory school on the Frostburg State College campus is the only public kindergarten in all of Garrett and Allegany counties. If public kindergartens are mandated for all counties in Maryland, Allegany County alone initially will require 31 kindergarten teachers, and it follows that most of the teachers will have to be recruited from Frostburg's graduating classes. We now have 64 kindergarten-primary majors. Of that number, 13 are scheduled to do their teaching in 1968-69. With-

out a kindergarten in this part of the State, these students cannot become fully certified unless they have practice teaching in both kindergarten and primary classrooms. Without the laboratory school we shall have to ask public schools to assume this responsibility, and—as I have indicated—those county schools qualified to offer such opportunities are a considerable distance from Frostburg.

Likewise, for our 388 elementary education majors, we must ask nearby school systems to formulate, quite precipitously, plans to absorb our student teachers who would have gained necessary pre-school teaching experience at the laboratory school.

The recommendation not to fund laboratory schools may well be defended on a number of grounds. But the way the recommendation was made — with no academic planning or careful study of alternatives in consultation with the colleges—has undermined the confidence which mature and dedicated educators have a right to believe the State accords them, and the teacher education program will thereby suffer in several ways.

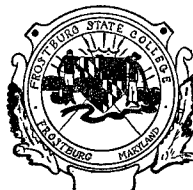
My comments apply, then, to:

1. The immediate fiscal crisis—which I cannot help but interpret as a crisis affecting the quality and the growth of the state colleges.
2. The manner in which budgetary decision-making relates to educational decision-making by the colleges.
3. The "image" of the state colleges which presently is shaped by lack of adequate information concerning the colleges and their potential and achievements.

I respectfully solicit your earnest concern for all of these points. I stand ready at any time to discuss these matters with you or with your staff.

Respectfully yours,
John H. Morey

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