

ports this statement. The General Assembly should consider this unseemly episode, still fresh in the public mind, where the "unauthorized" building was initiated without the sanction of any department of the State, and without review of the plans; indeed, without knowledge of the Regents. After the work had been begun the Board of Public Works was faced with an embarrassing dilemma. It concluded by a divided vote that it could not escape the commitment thus made for the State. An important decision on State policy in respect to Negro education was in this way forced upon us.

No consideration of academic freedom or common sense in the management of public funds requires that the door be left open to the possibility of a repetition of such an affair. If the University is to embark on a far-reaching program of this sort, with heavy budget implications for the future in the construction and furnishing of buildings and the support of activities begun therein, more than the University alone should have a voice in the decision. This bill does not make the necessary correction, but strengthens and embeds permanently into the law a demonstrated evil.

5. The State Planning Commission is one of those agencies from which the bill would give complete immunity to the University. The State Planning Commission is necessary to prevent waste and ill-advised building at the University, as elsewhere. Despite the slight restraint that this Commission has succeeded in exercising over the University, it has been common experience for the cost of University building projects greatly to exceed the initial estimates. If even this limitation should be removed, it will be regular practice for a building program to be started on its way by the University, and when the State is faced with the accomplished fact, there will be nothing to do but to grant additional appropriations. The plea will be made, as in the past, that refusal would result in waste of the existing investment.

There is simply no valid reason why the University should not submit its program to the State Planning Commission so that it may be considered along with the programs of other departments. The amount that should properly be appropriated to the University cannot be intelligently determined except in relation to the total program of the State. The University's plans should be scrutinized by the Planning Commission, to enable the Legislature to judge what is the rightful claim of the University which competes for a share of the tax dollar.