

have fully digested this confusing medley of words which passes for an "exception" to the grant of unconditional power? Posing as a restriction, this curious verbiage seems to do many things to expand the University's power at the expense of the Legislature itself. Is there any Legislator who can be sure what interpretation will be put on this language? Please read it again before voting on the motion to over-ride the veto.

The General Assembly should be interested in one thing this paragraph (d) seems to do. In preparing its budget, the University has often under-estimated its special fund income, thereby obtaining an increased appropriation from general funds. The surplus thus arising from special funds has been used by the University mostly for purposes not foreshadowed in the budget; but any surplus in general funds now reverts to the treasury. There have, indeed, been methods of diverting such surpluses, but it has been true that surplus general funds, if unobligated, would legally revert to the Treasury for further disposition by future budget action. Under the new law excess general funds, as well as special funds, will not revert to the Treasury but will be available to be spent by the University for some other purpose on approval by the Board of Public Works without legislative sanction.

Do members of the General Assembly realize that under House Bill No. 26 not even they will have any voice over the expenditure of such surplus? Thus, the bill invites jugglery with income estimates, and the Legislature renounces the control it has heretofore had, if it chose to exercise it, through the budget. Would such legislative abdication be considered for one moment in the case of any other department? Is it necessary to secure the University's freedom? Is it warranted by any fair test?

Economy-minded members of both Houses have shown a commendable interest in techniques to establish better legislative budget control. Paragraph (d) is a move in the opposite direction; it yields up a measure of the control the Legislature now has over the budget.

8. Finally, members of the General Assembly should ask themselves: If the University of Maryland is to be given this broad autonomy what about Morgan College, the Teachers Colleges, and other institutions? They will doubtless expect the same thing and with equal justice. Shall we then have a series of independent governments, with the State merely in the role of tax-gatherer and supplier of funds?