

A Statement

Recent statements by two public officials in Georgia—the Governor of the State and the Mayor of Macon—affront countless alumni, students and friends of Mercer.

On April 16, 1969, at a convocation in Reinhardt College in Walaska, Georgia, Governor Maddox stated his opposition to the Trustees of Mercer University seeking the assistance of federal funds. He said that such aid would place Mercer "under the police state." His choice of a platform for such a statement must have been embarrassing to his audience of Methodists, who have extensively sought and used federal funds for their educational institutions.

At the inaugural ceremonies of the new President of Georgia Southern College on April 3, 1969, the Governor criticized the Georgia State Legislature for not having accepted his proposed budget, which among many other items contained provisions to match federal grants for the state colleges of Georgia. On that occasion he said that the failure of the Legislature to pass his budget set back public higher education in Georgia by several years. One may ask what he thinks about the consequences to Mercer if the Mercer trustees cannot seek such federal assistance? Mercer would be set back equally as much for the private institutions and the public ones both badly need such funds, with the private ones needing them more.

This protest constitutes no entry into the political controversy over the adequacy of Governor Maddox as the Governor. Our objection relates to the principle that no public official—and especially the highest—may use his office to intrude in the affairs of a private college by expressions of his personal points of view. It is not fitting that the Governor of the State should thus seek to

interfere in Mercer's internal arrangements—and interference it is whatever else it may be labeled.

Another political minded Baptist, the Mayor of Macon, on announcing on April 22, 1969, that he would be a candidate for reelection as Mayor, seemed to have opened his campaign by stating that he would not help Mercer acquire property bordering the University, and that furthermore he opposed Mercer receiving and using federal funds. Again the great American tradition challenges the propriety of such a public official injecting his personal feelings in the internal affairs of a university. This protest involves no hostile censure of the Mayor in his office. He seems to do his office tasks well: But public officials such as the Mayor or the Governor must often deny themselves the luxury of indulging their personal opinions on many private matters.

It is scarcely believable that the City of Macon will refuse to help Mercer University meet her present day conditions for survival. It is not possible for the University to remain landlocked as it is. Time after time new business and new industry have received Macon's help to locate here. Many examples can be cited. A city "on the move" must do such things. Most cities are willing to use large sums of money to bring colleges to them. Indeed, the City of Macon provided the land and built the first building at Mercer in 1872 to bring Mercer to Macon from Penfield. Similarly, the City joined enthusiastically the forces that sought the funds to acquire the lands for the new Macon Junior College two years ago. It is an unbusiness-like suggestion that the City of Macon should decline to assist Mercer to provide the necessities for her life in Macon as conditions for her life have now become for a city "on the move" to deny one of the region's good universities

opportunity to survive, which university is already located here and which for a century has contributed significantly to the economic and cultural life of the area, would cast doubt on the direction the city will move—forward or backward. Perhaps Mayor Thompson was appealing to a vanishing group of voters. They are vanishing because they need better living conditions for themselves and their children in the area where not all but where 80% of the residential home sites have been declared substandard.

The Mayor further stated the "Mercer's President Rufus Harris had approached him concerning acquisition of Tatnall Square Park." The Mayor is incorrect in this. The record should be kept completely straight in the matter of Tatnall Square Park. I cannot speak for my predecessors, but I have never even so much as mentioned Tatnall Square to the Mayor or anyone else. Mercer has no desire to occupy Tatnall Square Park. She does not wish to own any part of it. In the first place Mercer is well aware of the bequest of Admiral Tatnall establishing the Park as a permanent playground for the children of the city. That is a most excellent and needed use. Secondly, Tatnall Square Park provides neither a desired nor a logical direction for the needed expansion of the Mercer campus. It would cause an illogical and awkward location of facilities. The direction of Mercer's campus growth is on the East side of the campus to the Central of Georgia Railway tracks. This direction was determined in 1872. The question now is whether the Baptists and the City of Macon will employ the foresight and wisdom which their fathers manifested a century ago and help to provide for the next century facilities as adequate for higher education at Mercer as were provided a hundred years ago.



Mercer's Southern School of Pharmacy presents discussion in Drug Abuse Seminar April 30 in Willingham Chapel.

SGA

Banks Presents Report Of Steering Committee

The major business matter under discussion at the April 21st meeting of the Senate dealt with Reed Bank's presentation of the Student Steering Committee Report. In explaining the purposes of the report, Reed noted that it was similar to one completed by the faculty in December and that his document represented an exploratory attempt to define the problems that challenge us as Mercer students from a social, academic, and financial standpoint. Summarily, the report's philosophy is that the student is aware of the problems existing in his educational system and should, along with the faculty, have a significant voice in establishing the policies administered to him. Joseph Hobbs used the analogy of a student as a consumer that has purchased a product and should, therefore, have some say in the operation he is paying for and that is to be of service to him.

The report first defines the concept of Mercer in the context of "higher liberal education" as a community of scholars whose purpose it is to develop a critical awareness of their society.

Concluding the paper is a statement affirming the right of students to "determine by referendum their conduct, and the right to ascertain the guilt of students accused of violating these rules."

In the Executive Committee Report Bobby Potter renamed Allen Wallace as Parliamentarian in the coming year. The Waverly Executive Committee will consist of: Bobby Potter, Steve Carreker, Izzie Smith, Dean Hendricks, Jerry Stone, and Dr. McManus. To suggest rules for the newly adopted Constitution, Steve Carreker, Ernie Robinson, Carol Strange, Dean Dougherty, and Allen Wallace were named to the By-Laws Committee.

Announced as suggested standing committees for the Potter administration are: Food services, Appropriations, Publicity, Spirit, Library, Prospective, and Insight. Every student in the college of Liberal Arts is invited to apply for a position on these committees.

Mercer is honored to have ten representatives to the "Student Workshop on Georgia State Government" sponsored by Lt. Governor Smith on May 9th in Atlanta. The representatives are Bobby Potter, Debbie Donaldson, James Norman, Ernie Robinson, Steve Thomas, Izzie Smith, Allen Wallace, Glenn

Kirbo, Steve Carreker, and Jinz Schwencke.

Students are reminded that SGA Senate meetings are open to any one interested—a student may freely join in debate. Meetings are held regularly on Monday, beginning promptly at 5:30 in room 333 of the Student Center.

Another report taken up in this very long meeting was delivered by Steve Carreker

from the Budgetary committee. University Vice President in charge of Finance, Mr. William T. Haywood, has agreed to speak with interested students concerning the budget on a Wednesday. Steve admitted that Mr. Haywood, once he can be reached, is very frank about discussing matters, he either states: (1) "The answer is..." (2) "I don't know..." (3) "I'm sorry, that is classified information."

Nursing School Goes to Macon Junior College

Officials of The Macon Hospital have expressed appreciation for the support Mercer University had given the Hospital School for Nurses.

An announcement was made recently of the termination of the 16-year-old contract by which the university furnished student nurses nine months of classroom instruction in biological and physical sciences, social sciences, English and speech.

"The rising cost of living, which has in turn spiraled the cost of education was determining factor in the decision of the Hospital Authority to transfer the Nursing School classroom instruction from Mercer to the

Macon Junior College. It was a move of economics, "according to Damon D. King, administrator of the hospital.

In a letter to Dr. Rufus C. Harris, President of Mercer, King said, "The Board, the administration of The Macon Hospital and the School of Nursing wish to relate to you their deep appreciation for the superb support that you and Mercer University have maintained over the years for our Nursing School."

King commended Mercer for the "cooperative attitude displayed in this time of transition" and said, "The relationship between the two institutions has been one of mutual high regards over the years and we are anxious to convey to you that we will continue our support and interest in Mercer University."

Charles H. Jones, chairman of the Macon-Bibb County Hospital Authority, informed Dr. Harris, "Mercer has really made it possible for us to operate a diploma School of Nursing here in Macon. Without Mercer's training of our students, we could

have found no substitute."

The School for Nurses entered into a six-months affiliation with Mercer in 1951. Two years later a formal contract was signed and has been in effect since. During the 16-year interval 753 student nurses have attended Mercer. These classes will end in the spring quarter at Mercer and will begin at the junior college in the fall.

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the responsibilities of the office, Beth Daniell installed the new president, Dori Ripley, who then adjourned the meeting.

On April 29, RWGA sponsored a program for those women students who were interested in summer travel in Europe. A film by the Osborne Travel Service was shown and questions answered by one of their representatives.

DUTCH PANTRY RESTAURANT

Full Menu—Sandwiches to Steaks
Men bring your dates—Delicious Meals
We have beautiful banquet and party rooms
Complete privacy

Tom Clark Visits Mercer

MACON, Ga.—Mercer University's Alumni Weekend May 2 and 3 featured an address by Tom C. Clark, retired associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Law Day activities began at 9:30 a.m. with a reception in the Langdale Law Library.

Hang Ten

Oxford Shop

323 3rd Street
Macon, Ga.