

cutting the budget of the university submitted to him by the governor.

Now, I have on my desk the present budget of the university and the proposed budget for the coming year. I think that the delegates should know that these budgets involve very substantial sums of money.

Last year, for example, the working budget of the university was just over seventy-one million dollars. This year the Board of Regents requested a working budget of eighty-three million dollars, but the point I seek to make is that only last Friday the governor of Maryland cut the requested increases of some nine million dollars by approximately six million dollars—the largest budget cut that the university has ever experienced in its existence.

What the right of self-management would have done and does do under the statute which now obtains is to give to the administration of the university the right to allocate within a program funds which have been set aside on a line item basis.

The university does not have nor has it ever exercised the right to allocate among the thirteen major programs contained in its budget. All that the right would have done, if it had been granted constitutionally, would have been to permit, as I have said before, within one program the university to allocate or to re-allocate in a different manner from the way in which the budget was originally prepared.

Now, why is this important? It is important for two reasons: it secures to the university the right to keep faith with its instructional staff.

As you all probably know, to obtain qualified people to teach in our institutions of higher learning today is a herculean task. You just cannot find good qualified instructors and when you get them, the time often comes when their salaries have to be increased. The university has exercised its right of fiscal self-management from time to time to do this very thing.

In one important case of note, it was able to keep perhaps the best brains in the field of solid state physics on the campus of the university for a period of twelve years. This man now heads one of the leading graduate schools in this country, but it was through fiscal autonomy that we were able to keep this man in Maryland for the benefit of the Maryland children that we sent to that university for that period of time.

In a second area, we find that the university is competing daily with other employers for administrative staff, secretaries, bookkeepers, key punch operators, and the whole array of people who go to make up this vast institution. The university is constantly in competition with big employers at College Park such as the federal government, and many manufacturers in that area, and this right of self-management permits an adjustment of the pay scale for these people without the necessity of going through all the rigors of a budget amendment and all of the red tape that this involves.

The first field is research. It might interest the delegates to know that the University of Maryland today will conduct and is conducting a research program of something in excess of twenty million dollars. There is no place in the State of Maryland that this program does not reach. It reaches the Chesapeake Bay, the tobacco farmer, the corn farmer, the wheat farmer, business, economics, it reaches medicine, it reaches dentistry, and law, and all phases of life in our State.

This right has permitted the university to secure more grants than any other institution, save Johns Hopkins, in this area.

These, then, were the reasons why the university came to this Convention and sought constitutional recognition of the right.

I should like to say two additional things about this subject. One is that it is a divisive subject. I think, Mr. Chairman, you and I have been associated in various matters for a period of twenty years and I think it is fair to say, sir, that this is the only thing in which we found ourselves on the opposite ends of the poles.

I should also like to point out to you, and each of you, that the university has not through any of its employees or agents or people that it might influence sought one vote on this convention floor for this proposition.

I have answered questions when people have asked me, but I think it is, and I hope it is, helpful to you that this matter was brought to you for your consideration without the pressure, without the tactics that might have been employed and without the systematic buttonholing of delegates and all the rest of the paraphernalia which many years ago the university was accused of doing. Let me say, Mr. Chairman, that this matter is now concluded. I hope that it is happily concluded. The uni-