

"In a dynamic society, there is real need for a degree of responsiveness to new developments on the part of every institution and governing board within the State. This responsiveness must be created in such a way as to leave the institution free from a binding, hard and fast *status quo* situation and free, as well, from the possibilities of capricious change. Those who oppose constitutional autonomy conclude that under these circumstances statutory safeguards would seem to be more fitting than constitutional provisions to ensure the degree of autonomy the University and state colleges shall have to function adequately in fulfillment of their purposes.

**COORDINATION AND RESPONSIVENESS  
TO STATE NEEDS**

"As in any dynamic society, questions and issues arise as to the best way in which public institutions of higher learning may respond to changing individual and societal needs while at the same time preserving the basic purposes and integrity of those institutions.

"Every *ad hoc* Commission since 1921 leading up to the present statutory Advisory Council has pointed out the need for responsiveness of individual institutions to *over-all* state needs. For instance, the Marbury Commission report in 1947 pointed out (p. 5) that 'although the existing institutional pattern cannot be ignored in appraising the services of the State in higher education, the statesman-like development of plans must not consider the welfare of individual institutions as a primary or important purpose of higher education. Instead, the institutional organization must be constantly adjusted to the needs of the State. This may at times require the

establishment of new institutions, modification in the pattern of existing institutions, or even the complete discontinuance of some that can no longer contribute effectively to meeting state needs.'

"Although the intent of many of the *ad hoc* commissions has been to provide freedom and flexibility for administrative action, no mention has been made of the need for constitutional autonomy to achieve this purpose...."

The Council summed up its viewpoints with the admonition that

"those considering the inclusion in the Constitution of the sections pertaining to higher education should take into account the desirability of broad-based rather than detailed statements. The Council also wishes to emphasize its belief that no matter what the degree of autonomy granted and the manner in which it is provided, it is essential that the concept 'in accordance with law' be safeguarded and actually incorporated into the wording of the provision."

A firm stand in favor of establishing autonomy for higher education through a provision in the State constitution is presented by the Board of Trustees of the State Colleges who feel that the growth and development of the state college "is most likely to remain responsive to the public interest if constitutional autonomy is granted."

The Board of Trustees of the State Colleges stated:

"Our argument is that three goals for constitutional consideration—responsive democracy, effective and efficient government, and respect for traditions—can be obtained by pro-