

viding in the constitution that the governing board of the state colleges be made the public agency truly responsible for their control and operation. In a popular democracy in which public higher education is expected to be available to all who are qualified, constitutional autonomy serves to provide that the governing of public higher education will be responsive to the will and needs of the people. In an era when both the size and expense of public higher education will continue to rise, constitutional autonomy makes it possible for the governing of higher education to be most responsive to the goals of effective and efficient management of the public's business. Finally, we claim that the traditions of the uniqueness of the special trust of public higher education will be guarded most securely if the new constitution provides for the autonomy of the state colleges under their Board of Trustees.

**I. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE**

"Although it is often difficult to gauge the will and needs of the people, in the case of higher education today there can be little confusion on this subject: MORE HIGHER EDUCATION IS BEING DEMANDED AND THE STATE IS EXPECTED TO FILL THE NEED.

"The 1966 report of the Maryland Advisory Council for Higher Education predicts that the total number of high school graduates in the State will increase from 47,303 in 1965 to 69,427 by 1980. The number of students continuing into higher education will increase from 21,381 to over 37,000, and the percentage of high school graduates continuing into

higher education will increase from 45.2 per cent in 1965 to over 53 per cent by 1980.

"The latest study made by the staff of the Board of Trustees of the State Colleges predicts that the percentage of twelfth graders in Maryland institutions who will attend Maryland institutions of public higher education will increase from 31.8 per cent in 1966 to 43 per cent by 1980. The same study projects an increase in the percentage of graduating seniors attending the state colleges from approximately 5.7 per cent in 1967 to 11.3 per cent in 1980.

"The number of entering freshmen in the state colleges is expected to increase by nearly 400 per cent by 1980. Potentially of great significance also will be the increased number of transfer applications as the two-year community colleges expand their programs and facilities.

"The combined enrollment statistics and projections show a growth in the total number of students in the state colleges from 6,211 in 1965 to 13,947 in 1970, 23,791 by 1975, and 32,291 by 1980. The largest percentage increase in the three five-year periods between 1965 and 1980 will occur between 1965 and 1970 when the enrollment is expected to increase by 55.47 per cent. Thus it is in the next few years that the major expansion of the State College System will take place. Constitutional autonomy granted to the governing board of the state colleges would assure to the people of Maryland that the responsible governmental agency would in fact be responsible and not subject to interference in its internal policy-making functions.