

the General Assembly, I was hopeful that this year a new bill would deal with the subject of the powers of the University of Maryland in such manner that I might give it approval; for I do not take pleasure in vetoing acts of the General Assembly, particularly when they have received the support of large majorities in both Houses. On the contrary, both as a matter of personal inclination and in the diplomacy of the Governor's office, I find it much more agreeable to avail myself of every possible opportunity to show deference to an expression of the legislative will. With genuine regret, however, I have concluded that House Bill No. 26, now before me, embodies substantially the objectionable features of the earlier bill and is so ill-advised that I must disapprove it.

It has been claimed by supporters of the bill that it represents a compromise reached by the Attorney General with the University, and that it now meets with the Attorney General's approval. This is not correct, according to the information given me by the Attorney General himself. When the Legislative Council came to consider the subject this winter a sub-committee did confer with Mr. Hammond. It reviewed with him the various provisions of the newly drawn bill. Some of the objections to the old bill were removed from the new draft. Other criticisms offered by Mr. Hammond were disregarded. Recognizing that he had no vote on the Committee, there was nothing more he could do. He has not declared himself satisfied with the bill in its present form and is far from approving it, but he feels that he has gone as far as he should go. I refer to this because some members of the Legislature may have been induced to vote for the bill in the mistaken belief that Mr. Hammond's objections had been fully met and that he now favors the bill. At all events, the question was not one of legality for him to decide officially as Attorney General. As a citizen he has done his full duty, and there is no room for criticism if he does not carry the fight further against what he considers an unwise policy. My responsibility as Governor, however, is broader, and my duty to pass on the policy of the measure is inescapable.

Let it be granted at the outset that in certain aspects of the conduct of a university it is appropriate to give it a broader freedom of action than is customary in other departments of government.

I ally myself with defenders of academic freedom, and declare my strong conviction that in a democratic society a teaching institution is entitled to full protection against out-side control over its teaching methods and curriculum;