

My answer to these questions is that in the administration of public affairs costly experience has proved that certain orderly procedures must be observed. Though these may at times prove troublesome, the removal of all restrictions in the handling of public monies leads to dangers that are worse. Even private business of any magnitude cannot afford to operate in this fashion.

The character of the checks and balances should, of course, vary according to the nature of the activity involved, but House Bill No. 26 goes beyond all reason in setting up an independent sovereignty whose only contact with the State would be to receive financial tribute. It fosters and aggravates existing faults in administration, and sanctions an inexcusable relationship between the University and the rest of the State Government. If the measure becomes law, I am confident that future years will reveal its regrettable folly. If enough of your membership will join with me, the folly can be prevented.

When an approaching event seems to bear the aspects of inevitability the easiest course is not to oppose it. Such, in fact, has been the advice offered me in some quarters. I cannot follow it, believing as I do about the proposed law.

For these reasons, and for others which will occur to anyone upon close examination of the matter—reasons that transcend personalities or partisanship—I return the bill without my approval.

Respectfully yours,

THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,
Governor.