

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

May 7, 1951

Hon. John C. Luber
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am returning herewith without my approval House Bill No. 681 for the reasons stated in the attached memorandum.

Respectfully,

THEODORE R. MCKELDIN,
Governor

After earnest consideration, I have decided to veto House Bill 681. This bill would make unprecedented departures from sound administrative procedures, and would work drastic changes in the relation of the University of Maryland to the rest of the State government.

Foremost among the reasons for my action is that it exempts the University from all restraint by any "Board, Bureau or Commission". No other institution, public or private, that receives money from the State, is so utterly independent of outside authority. Moreover, the power and control of the president is further enlarged by this bill at the expense of the University's own Board of Regents, by transferring important functions and responsibilities from that body to the president.

Such vast concentration of power in one man with virtually unlimited mastery over the state University, its important educational and other concerns, and the administration of its multi-million dollar annual budget, has implications that deserve serious study.

This legislation would tend to aggravate certain features of the University administration that have been criticized by every Commission that has heretofore studied the University of Maryland. It is based on no objective findings, and contains features which, in my judgment, are basically unwise and subversive of good administrative practice. It was introduced late in the session and was passed hurriedly without adequate consideration either in the Committees or on the floors of the two Houses.

All purchases by the University are by this bill exempted from the procedures established by law to prevent favoritism and to promote efficiency and economy in the purchase of commodities and supplies. If this system is beneficial in the case of all other agencies of the State, no reason appears for dis-