

Tuskegee Institute

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE
ALABAMA

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

June 22, 1967

Dear

I am writing to you about what President Foster has called

". . . the critical ten per cent of our budget."

About one month ago, an Alabama newspaper reported that "Governor Lurleen Wallace has recommended cutting off the State's annual appropriation to Tuskegee Institute . . ." While the Legislature has not taken final action on the Governor's recommendation, you should know that this matter poses extremely grave problems for Tuskegee's program.

We will not know the fate of this highly constructive cooperative program until late in the summer. In the meantime, we plan no reduction in the Institute's program and will, undoubtedly, have to make a special financial appeal to our alumni and friends.

Tuskegee Institute has had cooperative programs with the State of Alabama since 1881. In 1943, these joint enterprises were significantly expanded and arrangements made for five Trustees to be appointed by the Governor and for the State Superintendent of Education to serve on the Tuskegee Board.

The appropriation was set at \$110,000 at that time (1943), and has since been increased to the present level of \$670,000 annually. These funds provide substantial -- but only partial -- support for veterinary medicine, nursing, engineering, and graduate home economics and agriculture.

The press in your area may not have reported that President Foster appeared before the Joint Interim Committee on Finance and Taxation of the Alabama Legislature and urged continuance of the Alabama appropriation. He said this was "the critical element in enabling Tuskegee to secure funds from other sources and to maintain and further extend Tuskegee's educational strength."

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President Foster also brought to the attention of the Finance and Taxation Committee these "critical consequences" if the Tuskegee appropriation is reduced or eliminated:

"About 300 Alabama students in contract programs will be required to pay higher fees . . .; many will be required by their financial circumstances to go through the disrupting personal experiences of transferring to some other institution which is less expensive, or -- tragically -- to terminate their college education.

"Tuskegee will be unable to continue its contract relationship with the Southern Regional Education Board for the training of veterinarians . . .

"Quality of the contract programs will undoubtedly deteriorate in the face of financial insecurity and inadequacy . . .

"Vitality of the total program may deteriorate so that Tuskegee will be less attractive to Alabama students . . .

"Confidence of foundations and other financial supporters of the Institute's work will be seriously impaired, especially if the long-standing Alabama-Tuskegee contract is precipitously terminated unilaterally; consequently, the momentum of our development and fund-raising efforts . . . will be gravely damaged.

"A highly creative approach to the financing of higher education . . . will be rendered ineffective; and there will be much higher cost to provide comparable educational opportunity for today's youth and for the greatly increased enrollments expected in the years immediately ahead."

When the Legislature has taken final action on the Governor's recommendation and President Foster's request, we will be in touch with you about some specific contributions you -- as friends, parents, students and alumni -- can make to the ongoing Tuskegee programs.

Regardless of how this situation may go, Tuskegee's case would be much more secure if its alumni and friends would form a significant "living endowment" by contributing increasingly on an annual basis, to assure the Institution a future of improved quality and usefulness.

Sincerely yours,

H. A. Wilson
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Director