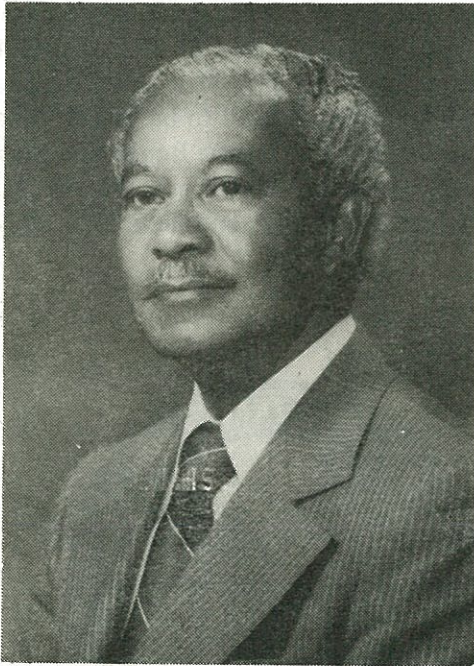


A BLACK COLLEGE AT THE CROSSROADS



by

Elgin Madison Lowe

Elgin Lowe

DEDICATION

The material in this book and those experiences now written here are shared by my wife, Lois. Hence, I dedicate this to her. Her prodigious efforts, that gave me the courage to think through many problems, gave rise to these writings. Likewise, I also dedicate this to the Members, to our three children, Mrs. Jean Teague, Elgin Lowe, and Miss Sandra Lowe who seemed to be proud to have shared in my way during my eight years on the Board of Visitors of Virginia State College. Finally, the late Dr. Walker H. Quarles, Jr. will never be forgotten for his attention to details, and dedication to Virginia State College.



PREFACE

The writer wishes to acquaint the reader with some of his experiences as a member of the Board of Visitors of Virginia State College during the period beginning June 30, 1964, through October 30, 1972. The reader is also forewarned that some portions of these writings are those received as a member of the Board of Visitors of VSC. Some acts, however, are on record in Board minutes and are documented.

These writings are not intended to prosecute or belittle any member of the Board, anyone in an administrative capacity, faculty member, friend of VSC, or anyone connected in an official way with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Virginia has several prestigious colleges, and certainly among the leading institutions of higher learning is Virginia State College. The Board of Visitors of VSC, charged with the responsibilities of governing the college, had a tremendous task to accomplish. On many occasions, the Board had to spend considerable time dealing with issues of serious consequences, as well as major issues. The writer became aware of forces at work in the early sixties, which apparently were tending to hinder any progress that was made. It was quite unfortunate that new Boards were governing colleges during this period, and there were student protests throughout the country and at VSC.

A major emphasis of this book focuses on a rector's experiences during this period in the history of VSC, the student revolt of the

It is important to the reader to have some knowledge of the history of Virginia State College. Only in this way can he realize what challenges our Board had in the early years of its (the Board's) history.

In March 6, 1882, VSC became a reality by a bill sponsored by W. Harris, a Negro (Black) member of the House of Delegates in Petersburg, Virginia. Harris and a small group of his friends had concluded that members of our race could be trained and/or educated to become useful citizens. They were determined to bring this dream to fruition. Those days were trying ones, especially for black men and women, for so little was being provided for these first and second

men. Alfred Harris and his colleagues used their competencies to
the bill through the General Assembly of Virginia to establish
the State College.

The struggle of VSC during its early history notes that four years
beginning, there were accommodations for 750 pupils, while
it was only \$3.35 each three months, and room and board could
be obtained for only \$20.00. In 1887, the college held its first grad-
exercise. Nine students received the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Shortly thereafter, the school met severe reverses to the extent
that unsympathetic political legislators changed the organization of the
college, reduced the annual appropriations, reduced the faculty, and
altered the curriculum. The college department was discontinued
and the name of the college was changed to Virginia Normal and
Industrial Institute. The Board of Visitors was reduced from seven
members to four members. In spite of these reverses by acts of legis-
lation, the college, its leaders, and friends succeeded in making some
progress.

For nearly thirty years prior to 1964, all state colleges of the
Commonwealth of Virginia were controlled by the State Board of Edu-
cation. This Board also set the general overall policies and regulations
for the public schools of Virginia. The State Board also supervised the
colleges at all state colleges, selected and elected presidents as well.
In particular, the State Board of Education served as the governing
body of Madison, Longwood, and Virginia State College since 1928.
The State Board of Education, realizing the many responsibilities it had
for the public schools and the three colleges mentioned, recommended
in 1964 General Assembly that separate governing boards be
established to these institutions. As a result of this recommendation,
the 1964 General Assembly adopted legislation providing for appoint-
ment by the Governor, of separate Boards for these colleges effective
in 1964. This enabled the State Board of Education to devote its
attention to fulfilling its obligation for the general supervision of
the public schools of Virginia. When these boards were established, in
addition, individuals from the State Board were appointed to each of
the boards for continuity.

By an act of the General Assembly of Virginia, the Norfolk Poly-
technic College of Norfolk, Virginia, became, in July 1, 1944, a divis-

the college. On February 1, 1969, the division became an independent unit known as Norfolk State College, and it is an accredited institution.

Presidents who served from the late thirties through 1972 were: Dr. M. Gandy, Dr. Luther H. Foster, Dr. James T. Johnston, (acting); Dr. Robert P. Daniel, Dr. Walker H. Quarles, Jr., (acting); Dr. J. Tucker, Dr. Walker H. Quarles, Jr., (acting); and Dr. Wendell Hill.

During a meeting of the General Assembly of Virginia on February 1969, the Virginia Code was amended enabling colleges in Virginia to be governed by a Board of Visitors. Hence, eleven members were selected on the Board of Visitors of Virginia State College by the General Assembly.

CONTENTS

	Page
FACE	ii
CHAPTER	
I. The Origin of the Board of Visitors	1
Appointments, Acts of General Assembly, Organization of the Board, Significant Decisions during the First Year	
II. The Crossroads	6
The Death of a Leader	9
The Plan	10
VSC – Norfolk Division	10
Richard Bland College	14
The Protest	15
Resignation of Dr. Tucker	28
III. The Selection of a President	30
A Change in the School of Agriculture	34
The Escalation of Richard Bland College	34
IV. The Seventh President	37
The Inauguration	39
V. Reflections	43
Eight Years	44
APPENDIX	48
ILLUSTRATIONS	60

CHAPTER I

THE ORIGIN OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS

Delegate Shirley T. Holland of Isle of Wight and Nansemond counties, who was also President of the Farmers Bank of Windsor, Virginia had called my office several times during the month of May, and as is the case with many principals, I was in a classroom or attending to school business elsewhere. When he finally reached me, he asked if I could come to his office to discuss a matter that could not be talked over the telephone. Naturally my answer was "yes." Our conversation at first was of casual things, how did I enjoy school work, the weather By this time I was rather curious as to the nature of his call. I knew my bills at the bank were in good shape so why the

My suspicions were aroused when he said, in essence, I know of your standing in this community, we have checked your record and it is satisfactory. We also know you are a graduate of Virginia State College in good standing. You know the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia will be granting independent status to Virginia State College and three other colleges this June 30, 1964. Virginia State College will become an independent college at that time and need good representatives on its Board of Visitors, would you accept a position on its Board? Frankly, I was shocked and mumbled something to the effect that if he thought I could be of service and if he had that confidence in me, I would do it! I was sworn to keep it secret until the announcement was made (except, of course, my wife, who had to know this).

On June 17, 1964 Governor Albert S. Harrison, Jr. announced the appointment of eleven members to our Board. They were: John Anderson, Director, Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company; and Carter Myers, Jr., President of Petersburg Motor Company; both of Petersburg; Booker T. Bradshaw, President, Virginia Mutual Ben-Life Insurance Company; Ernest W. Farley, Jr., Richmond Engineering Company, Inc.; Edward A. Wayne, President, Federal Reserve Bank and Dr. Woodrow W. Wilkerson, Superintendent of Public Instruction, all of Richmond; Dr. Waldo Scott, Physician-Surgeon of Newport News; Dr. Clayton A. Robbins, Physician of Hopewell; Mrs. Elys V. V. Morton, former member of State Board of Education of Gloucester Court House; Mrs. Dorothy J. Harris, Principal of West End School of Clarksville and Pretlow Darden, former Mayor of Nor-

President of Colonial Chevrolet Corporation; and the writer,
Principal of Georgie Tyler High School, Windsor.

Each of these members was to serve a two or a four year term on
and could be reelected to serve not more than two terms
according to the desires of the Governor and the General Assembly. Dr.
was ex-officio member since he held the position as Superin-
tendent of Public Instruction in Virginia. Three of the original mem-
bers served two four-year terms ending officially on June 30, 1972.
The members were Mrs. Gladys V. V. Morton, H. Carter Myers, and
the writer.

Two of the members of the original Board of Visitors of Virginia
College were Negroes (black). They were Mrs. Dorothy J. Harris,
John Scott, Dr. Clayton Robbins, Booker T. Bradshaw, and the

A careful review of the positions held by the Board members will
show that each one held a responsible position in his own field. Our Board
included an engineering executive, a director of a tobacco company,
a reserve bank president, two high school principals, a former
member of the State Board of Education, two physicians, two auto
club presidents, and an insurance company president. Without
doubt these persons are highly respected in Virginia and some are
regarded as outstanding in many other states of our nation.

Even though this selection of outstanding Virginians made a good
basis for the Board, it must be noted that not a single person knew
anything about the fundamental work of running a college the size of
the College of William and Mary in its division at Norfolk.

Individual members selected to compose the Board did not receive
information concerning VSC other than the passing of the Acts of
the General Assembly approved February 21, 1964. There is recorded
in Chapter 70, pages 104-106 an act to amend the code of Virginia
Chapter 13 of Title 23 sections numbered 23-265.1 through
23-265.9 to create a corporation composed of the "Visitors of Virginia
College" referred to as the Board. In general, the Board is an
agency of the State of Virginia charged with the responsibility of admin-
istering, supervising, and controlling affairs of the college totally. This
includes the purchase of real estate, capital outlay, appointment of the president, all
employees, teachers and agents; to fix their salaries, to confer degrees
and to supervise curriculum are among its many other obligations.

Since the Commonwealth of Virginia had embarked on separate plans for its colleges it would have been good had the selectees had an opportunity for an orientation period of one or two days. Board members of Virginia colleges are appointed every two or four years. This writer is of the opinion that most selectees would prefer some type of orientation period before sitting in on Board meetings. This writer believes Virginia will initiate orientation periods every two or four years at that purpose.

Our first meeting of the entire Board was designed to acquaint the members with the college, its administrative staff, their (the Board's) function as Board members to VSC and the Commonwealth of Virginia and to organize. This meeting convened June 30, 1964 at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon in the conference room of Virginia Hall with President Robert P. Daniel presiding temporarily, after which Mrs. Gladys V. V. Morton was elected temporary chairman.

After the preliminaries, introductions, and statement by President Daniel, we settled down to the serious business of a working group. Dr. Wayne was elected Rector, Booker T. Bradshaw, Vice-Rector, Gladys V. V. Morton, Secretary to the Board (with Dr. Walker H. Daniel, Jr. as staff secretarial assistant).

Present at this meeting and all other meetings were the President, Robert P. Daniel, of VSC and Provost, Dr. Lyman Brooks, of the Norfolk Division and their administrative assistants.

Our first meeting of the Board of Visitors of VSC and all the subsequent meetings were designed to attend to the business of running the college and its branch, the Norfolk Division. All the members were engaged in the business of running a college, trying desperately to run it to the best of our ability, with the expert guidance of Dr. Daniel and Dr. Brooks. We made mistakes, surely, but we learned from them too. We made hasty decisions sometimes and regretted them too, afterwards.

One must keep in mind the Board members of all colleges are capable people in their own fields, but it is no small task to offer your best judgment as important as a college with as many aspects as VSC. It needs at first a real good orientation period. Second, ample time must be given to meetings to allow for serious thought on important matters. Several hours of a meeting may not be sufficient to fully assess matters of importance.

hall never forget the humiliation I felt when several of us were g in front of Jones Hall (the dining hall—we always stand in f so we could see every one who went in or out of it) discussing tries. The group of us talking were all statesmen. One of the instructors in the physical education department joined our nd began talking about the Board's first meeting and who were rs of the Board. He said, the Board members are all ranking who know nothing about education, so VSC may as well be on kout for whatever may come. To top it off, he said, "they e fellow on it from some little country school down in Tide- wonder who he is? Then he laughed! I did too—never letting ow I was that fellow from a Tidewater country school!

any significant events took place in all the meetings that follow- first meeting. I feel much progress was made also during the at followed. Likewise, there were many hinderances from the faculty and the student body and even during our meetings d members. Some of these events were made public, some were ne caused significant progress in the end – even though they d, at times, to be quite disastrous and damaging. A couple of were very damaging, morally, to our college. Most of the re- all meetings were published. I shall mention only briefly some ings in the pages that follow.

the many matters discussed in the first year of the Board, I r the items listed below as significant.

- . Approval of VSC's participation in a cooperative development program along with ten other colleges with grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation under the sponsorship of the Phelps Stokes Fund.
- . The relocation of parts of Fourth Avenue and Boisseau Street as necessary for the construction of the new health and physical education building and gymnasium.
- . Approval of the construction of a biology building at Petersburg and a gymnasium at Norfolk Division.
- . Salary improvement in all categories.

- . Curriculum changes and the increased degree offerings, as well as, broadening of offerings for the M. S. Degree.
- . Admission policy changes so as to allow more disadvantaged students admission.
- . The issuance of Revenue Bonds of \$730,000, \$560,000 and \$700,000 for men's and women's dormitories and student campus center.
- . A study of whether or not Norfolk Division should remain a community college and the need for housing at Norfolk.
- . Presentation of a master campus plan for Norfolk Division.
- . Appointment of three important committees: fiscal affairs, academic program, and building and grounds.

the Fiscal Affairs, Academic Programs and the Buildings and Grounds Committees were our most important committees on the Board. Rector Wayne and Board members discovered near the end of our first year of operation as a Board, that these committees would not function properly. In the past months most matters of these committees were taken up by the Executive Committee and reported to the Board quarterly. The end result was not as good as it has been.

These committees were the outgrowth of Rector Wayne's energy at the close of a year's operation. Rector Wayne was a dynamic individual who showed great enthusiasm and courage in his duties.

CHAPTER II

THE CROSSROADS

The first year of the Board's existence passed with the beginning of several significant projects of interest to VSC and the Norfolk Division. The Board as a whole was now beginning to have a fair knowledge of its duties to the State of Virginia and to VSC. It took some time to really understand our purpose. This was the year of beginning of some frustration which will be mentioned only because it ties in with events that took place in the year that followed.

The Norfolk Division's Provost, Dr. Lyman B. Brooks, presented to the Board Norfolk State's proposed master campus plan. This plan included the acquisition of land for expansion, reclamation of land on campus, developing campus environs to provide suitable setting for urban campus development, and a zone enforcement program for neighborhoods adjacent to the campus. Preliminary sketches were prepared for future buildings on the campus including a badly needed library.

The Board became aware of Richard Bland College's intended conversion to a four year college. We waited for further developments. In the meantime, this also was the beginning of official concern of the Norfolk Division to become a separate institution (May 1966). As the growth of community colleges took place in Virginia, we knew that the Norfolk Division had to re-evaluate their curriculums. Of tremendous interest to Board members was the desire to recruit to the undergraduate division students of any race. The undergraduate division already had enrolled members of other races.

Beginning on June 30, 1964, through July 27, 1966, our Board members had been elected and reelected unanimously. We seriously felt that all members, including the officers, had fulfilled their responsibilities in every respect. On July 27, 1966, when the Board members elected all officers to succeed themselves, Rector Ed Wayne expressed appreciation for the confidence imposed in him and indicated that the responsibility as a Rector had been challenging, time-consuming, and interesting. He was aware that the college was going through a period of transition. He reminded us that the Governor had elected the Council of Higher Education to prepare a master

r higher educational institutions in the State of Virginia. It
operative at this time that the Boards of Visitors of all colleges
he role of the community college system of Virginia so they
properly direct senior colleges. He asked, that our Board re-
he Council of Higher Education to give prior consideration to
ster plan for Petersburg and the Norfolk Division so that we
ow early the role of VSC. This request was approved by our
nd a statement was submitted by the Council for VSC.

ector Wayne was a very conscientious individual, dedicated to
c of making VSC comparable to other colleges in Virginia.
also known very well in influential circles, the financial
y virtue of his position as President of the Federal Reserve
f Richmond, and it was quite evident he studied all phases
college's program to become an efficient rector. This does
an the other members left everything to Rector Wayne or
llowed all his suggestions. He was admired and respected as
tor and spokesman to the Governor and the General Assembly.

bout this time the Rector as well as other members were be-
increasingly aware that the business of the Board could not
y be attended to efficiently in the short period of time allott-
neetings, nor; could the Executive Committee take care of
ness and make all recommendations. Hence, through the wis-
Board member Darden the several committees already es-
ed were assigned their proper roles and requested to report to
rd in regular sessions. These committees were Fiscal Affairs,
g and Grounds, and the Academic Committee.

or the past two years we had on several occasions discussed
ries of all professional and non-professional persons connect-
the college. Although our President, Dr. Daniel, and Pro-
ooks were outstanding administrators, it was alarming how
eir salaries were when compared to other college presidents.
onestly state that our Board was unanimous in seeking higher
for the President and the Provost, as well as, fixing higher
for other personnel.

the early 1960's there were many public school teachers in
who did not enjoy the prestige of a college teacher, but,
salaries were as high or higher than many college teachers.

few principals of Virginia enjoyed a salary as high or higher
President of VSC and the Provost of Norfolk Division.
of all our college members were much better in the late 60's
y 70's; there still is need for improvement in this regard.

THE DEATH OF A LEADER

is most difficult to write this section. From July 1, 1966 to February 9, 1970 were our most trying years. Events of tremendous importance took place.

When a person of high standing, in a position of leadership, loses it, as was the case of President Robert P. Daniel, all kinds of things may emerge. Some people felt President Daniel was becoming a socialite and was enjoying the life of a socialite. Others felt he was neglecting the duties of his office as president. Some persons thought of him as being away from the college for extended periods of time socializing when he was needed at the college. This kind of information came to our attention by letters, (some signed and some anonymous), telephone calls and by word of mouth. Even some faculty members joined in spreading the gossip.

Upon investigation by the Board, it was found that Dr. Daniel was working, was away from the college several days, but; mostly on weekends. There was no substantiated evidence of immoral activities. He was acting the part of any normal person. He did court and date a person of his own choosing.

I must say in defense of President Daniel, that in my experience, all of our dealings with him, he was a leader who was quite capable, and did do an excellent job as an administrator. He was well respected, a dynamic speaker, a good public relations representative for the college, and one who did a first rate job as president. He was our fatherly figure, yet paternal in his dealings as president with the college people. I dare say, no one could have done a better job during that period of time. The Board members had full confidence in him. We respected and admired Dr. Daniel.

We must remember that following the death of a very dear lady, as our First Lady, Dr. Daniel was a single man who was President of the college. The thrust of the rumors that could really be substantiated was his being away from the college very often in the company of his friends in other states. At no time were we presented any facts that would be deemed immoral. The friends he chose to associate with at the college, however, lived a different type of social life than those on the campus, or for that matter, far different from what they expected as a president of a college.

was on one of these occasions, while the President was away from the College, that he had a severe heart attack. After many consultations with his physician and others in the medical profession, we advised that he should take three to six months rest without duties to perform.

THE PLAN

It was generally felt by those not members of the Board that President Daniel should be relieved of his position. The feelings expressed were more so now, not only because of the rumors, but, now because of his health. In the meantime, President Daniel was nearing retirement.

It is assumed from the comments in a special Board meeting of September 19, 1967, that several conferences had been held between the President, Dr. Daniel, and his personal physician. It must also be assumed that these conferences developed because of the rumors and his heart attack. However, it was during this time and immediately following his heart attack that strong pressure was being exerted to persuade Dr. Daniel to retire. This was not his desire at this time. He did agree to retiring in February, 1968.

Eventually it became apparent that Dr. Daniel's health would not permit him to assume full responsibility for the administration of the College. Also because of public reaction, some persons felt that it would not be wise to allow him to continue in the presidency. Upon the advice of his personal physician and the administrative personnel, we thought the best interest of the college would be served by requesting that he retire. I believe the reaction of this request caused the resignation to occur much earlier than it otherwise might have been. Dr. Daniel died on February 5, 1968.

VSC - NORFOLK DIVISION

Our Board had requested the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia to review the role and scope of the Norfolk Division. This request was submitted in its revised form - to read, in part: "Virginia College - Norfolk, either as a branch or as an independent institution shall limit its curriculum offerings to strong baccalaureate programs in the arts and sciences, business teacher education, and technological (mechanical, electrical, science) according to its resources and the

f the area in which it is located. Although it is expected that members will engage in research or other scholarly activity, d be stressed that Virginia State College - Norfolk is envisioned stitution for providing instruction at the baccalaureate level in r areas named.

is the opinion of the State Council of Higher Education that ; and proposed master's and doctor's programs at other state led institutions of higher education obviate the need for grad- el instruction at VSC – Norfolk.

planning the future of Virginia State College – Norfolk, the ouncil of Higher Education assumes that the Board of Visitors r in mind the growth and development of the state system of ensive community colleges with their offerings of certificate ociate degree programs.”

d you read carefully the wording of the resolution above? It ed April 3, 1967. The growth of the Norfolk Division in pupil ion had already passed its mother institution. Its location in ropolitan area of Hampton Roads indicated it was destined to a large institution, with many and varied offerings in the cur- . This resolution, therefore, brought with it divided opinions our Board members, as well as, heated discussions. Also its brought forth heated discussions between faculty members er influential citizens of Norfolk.

e Council was aware of our discussion to some day grant Nor- ependent status. The Council was also cognizant of the other ions in the area, their growth and desire to become stronger and doctrate programs, and also the building of community col- o limit Norfolk to a restricted program seemed (at the time to visable. However, after full discussion of the significance of olution as a guide for the development of VSC – Norfolk, the nanimously voted to accept the proposed role and scope as e and appropriate for the current and near-term situation. We that the future would bring demands which would require a und re-appraisal of the role and scope of Norfolk and at that . the future) would request the Council to reopen and review and scope of Norfolk.

Brooks was quite disturbed at the outcome of the decision of the Board and the assignment of the role of the Council. He saw the position of Norfolk being on the level of ODU and both institutions being put together in their offerings. He also felt the restrictions were placed at Norfolk as set by the Council. Of course, when it came to the admission of students to Norfolk, he saw the division as having an open-door policy. Almost any person who had a desire to attend college could gain entrance. Remedial work and the shifting of students from other fields more to his ability were available if one really wanted

Norfolk Division, undaunted however, moved ahead under authority from the Board. Arrangements were made with the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority to assist the college in acquiring property for the proposed dormitories and classroom buildings. This was also a part of the master plan of Norfolk. New York University advice was sought concerning the desirable administrative and physical structure appropriate to establishing Norfolk Division as an independent institution. Continued assistance was asked for and advised by the Visiting Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and schools as to academic emphasis. The Board of Visitors already expressed, in principle, the desire to approve granting Norfolk Division independent status, appointed a committee from the Board headed by Pretlow Darden to prepare to report to the Governor and appropriate legislation to establish Virginia State-Norfolk as an independent institution under its own Board of Visitors.

The committee composed of Dr. C. Waldo Scott, John Anderson, and Pretlow Darden recommended:

That there be established, effective as soon as retention of accredited status is assured, a corporation composed of a Board of Visitors of eleven members to be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, with five of the initial members appointed for two year terms and six for four year terms. All subsequent

That the new institution be named Norfolk State College.

That all real estate and personal property now held by Virginia State College . . . be placed under control of the new college as of July 1, 1968.

has been indicated previously, detailed attention had to be given to several major areas prior to the granting of independence to the Norfolk Division. These items were: detailed consideration of the master campus plan, a self study of the Norfolk Division, a Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities, a committee to suggest the organizational and academic structure of New York University, advice and guidance from legislators on various aspects, consultation with the Governor, consultation with representatives of both races, cooperation and good will of the administrators of both institutions and the faculties, as well as, students

Additional attention had to be given to the drawing up of a budget, allocations for capital outlay, setting up priorities by rank of importance, and many other details.

Of utmost importance and priority number one was the Library - the acquisition, securing of all the materials needed for a well equipped library. This we set out to do, for we knew that major consideration in the accreditation status of the Norfolk Division hinged on the library.

After many long hours of study and preparation for the separation of the two institutions, the Board felt it had finally reached a point where it could recommend the separation. Dr. John G. Barker, Executive Secretary of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association prepared a statement to be presented to the Board, stating, in effect, that the Norfolk Division would meet accreditation standards as a separate institution. This action was taken by the Board in regular session on July 17, 1968. A committee headed by Mel Darden, was selected during the meeting to meet with the Governor and the State Council of Higher Education to implement the separation as soon as possible.

It was hoped that complete separation and implementation could be completed prior to opening of school in September. Thus ended the struggle of the Norfolk Division of VSC to become Norfolk College.

we are deeply proud to have played a small part in the struggle of the Norfolk Division to become Norfolk State College. Norfolk State College is one of the State's leading institutions of higher learning.

RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE

STUDENT PROTEST

From the death of President Daniel and continuing on through the administration of Acting President Quarles, President Tucker and President Quarles, for the second time, and; during the administration of President Russell, Virginia State College and all of its counterparts, including the Board of Visitors, went through its most trying period. This period of time was the most serious one VSC has gone through in its history.

Several very important issues had to be faced squarely by our college. These issues involved were of special concern to many citizens, and so many other persons throughout this country and certain citizens of Virginia. They were very serious issues to all faculty members and especially to students of the college. Students of VSC were seriously concerned over the many angles involved concerning the status for that time in history and for its future. The issues at that time were:

1. "The Role of Virginia State College" as indicated by the Virginia Plan for the Council of Higher Education in 1967.
2. The establishment of Richard Bland College, a branch of the College of William & Mary in the Petersburg area, and the desire to raise Richard Bland College to the four year level.
3. The State's intent to merge the agricultural schools of VSC and Virginia Polytechnic Institute.
4. The Student Protest.
5. The resignation of President Tucker.
6. The threat of most of the Board Members to resign.

mediately following the death of President Daniel and during when Edward Wayne was rector, William and Mary's Board of announced its decision to raise Richard Bland College, a two institution, to a four year level. Our Board was astonished to news. We were deeply concerned for we felt this was a threat to existence. When the announcement was first made, our took the position that, although we were deeply concerned and were being down-graded, we could not tell William and Mary's what it could or could not do. We waited – for we knew or it would be challenged in some way.

THE PROTEST

The student protest actually began on Thursday, March 21, at 12:45 when students staged a demonstration opposing compulsory attendance (sophomores and freshmen) at assembly. The administration felt this was a spontaneous demonstration that had no organization nor authorized leadership. This was the beginning of the conflict on the campus. This was the beginning of the struggle for power, on the part of students.

On the following Monday afternoon, we learned that a general meeting of ROTC classes was scheduled to take place. Students had heard that a meeting of the faculty and Board members was to take place. The speaker scheduled for that meeting was Dr. Herman Smith of the Southern Education Foundation. Dr. Smith was a possible candidate for the presidency of VSC. After consultation with Acting Rector Quarles, Rector Wayne, Dr. Smith, Student Council President and a few others, it was decided to hold the meeting as scheduled. Students would be permitted to ask questions during the meeting.

Generally, the meeting went on as planned. The speaker, Dr. Smith, was impressive and dignified. He presented himself well and attempted to give his ideas on the role of VSC as compared to the statement by the Council of Higher Education. The students were attentive, polite and courteous, except for several minor disturbances in the audience. Rector Wayne then opened the meeting for questions from the audience. Many questions were raised from the audience. The opening of the meeting for questions led to a real confrontation. Rector Wayne, made the terrible mistake, following questions

to him or the speaker, to comment. He said, at one time he dropout in school. He was really trying to say, anyone is entitled to an education just as he had gone on to become President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. At this point, the meeting was almost uncontrollable. A few students were quite rude. This was unacceptable! The meeting was, or had to be closed at this point because of the students being so unruly. We were going to meet a few students or representatives in the conference room.

Dr. Ed Wayne and several Board members (including me) met with about thirty-five to forty students in the conference room of the Student Center Hall. Also present at that meeting was Dr. Keturah Whitehead. There may have been another faculty member present also. The meeting began around 10:00 P.M. led by Ed Wayne, who spoke calmly and clearly indicating the meeting was informal, and hopefully, it was to be about student grievances. He stated that we would take all requests under advisement and give very careful consideration to their

requests. The students who gathered there were polite and conscientious, and were very impressive in presenting their grievances. There was no doubt in our minds that they had given careful thought to their requests. It was also apparent they were sorry for the rudeness of others in the audience during the meeting prior to this one. Students expressed themselves as genuinely concerned about the quality of education being received, the dedication of some instructors, the requirement that students must pass the English Proficiency Examination, "The Comp" as a requirement for graduation and so on. At this point their requests were not in reality organized nor were they presented. However, we sensed a feeling that the situation was extremely tense and immediately authorized the administration to take steps to lessen tension and bring the situation back to normal. We decided on that night to endorse the idea not to require "the Comp" as a requirement for graduation.

Board members left the meeting with a deep sense of frustration regarding the situation on the campus. We had been reading of student protests, boycotts, and etc. at other colleges in the nation and at that point we were involved in the same situation. We left the campus fearful of body harm. Some of us were escorted away from the campus by faculty members, by Mr. Hulon Willis, Assistant Professor of Physical Education and Director of Community Safety, and

Following us in cars until we were some distance away for safety my wife and I were escorted by several students we knew from school (Georgie Tyler High in Windsor, Virginia). One student was a Knight whom we admired and respected and who was an alumnus from Isle of Wight County.

It is almost needless to say, that although I had worked with violence all of my life, in both elementary and high school, this was the first time I was really afraid. As I recall the events of that night, and the days and nights in the next couple of years, there was very little rest for me. I would lay in bed tossing, thinking, hoping to find a solution to lessen the tension. My ulcers flared up many times in the months ahead, however, I resolved in my mind that VSC's entire future was being weighed. I planned to see it through regardless of what may come.

Dr. Walker H. Quarles, Jr., the Acting President, presided at all meetings of the Executive Council, the student groups and others wherever and whenever he was needed. He was calm, dignified, and respected by the Board members, faculty members, and students. In presiding, he was impartial and permitted a free flow of ideas from all concerned. As I look back now on the events to come, I am convinced that Dr. Quarles happened to be in that place at the right time for VSC. It is doubtful anyone else could have handled the situation as well. Dr. Quarles performed under pressure during the period and on another period later as the seasoned leader that he proved to be. VSC owes him more than he will ever know. Mrs. Quarles stood by him during these periods gallantly. He is the most deserving person.

From this period of time and for many months later, all persons involved in VSC's struggle spent many hours in consultation. Board members were seriously concerned and were called upon on many occasions for consultation and decisions. Students continued in dialogue with many of us in groups and individually as well as a few individual members.

I must confess that the students I held conversations with, and the references we engaged in, were real dialogue. I was impressed by the sincerity of most all students despite the poor taste on the part of a small minority. There was a new student on campus, his background was not subject to be subordination. He was concerned about

ity of education he was there to get. He commanded our best
n. Of course, there were a few whose thinking was radical.

ny hours of negotiation between the administration and stu-
ders resulted in a press release on March 29, 1968 which read
"That the administration and student leadership agreed to:

Eliminate immediately freshman and sophomore
attendance at compulsory assemblies.

To eliminate immediately compulsory class
attendance with the exception of the freshman
class.

To accept the option of non-compulsory ROTC
participation effective in September.

To eliminate the English Proficiency Examination . .

To extend the hour of curfew in the housing of
student

To merge student and faculty parking facilities.

Decision was agreed upon to study the college curriculum for
and/or suggestions.

The dialogue between administration and students was one of
understanding.

There was hope that this was the end of student protest. It was

James F. Tucker, the new Sixth President of VSC, met with
initially on July 17, 1968 having assumed the presidency
1968. Dr. Booker T. Bradshaw became rector of the Board of
, also at that time.

fully expected and certainly were desirous of progress at the
Our Board meetings, for the first few, were profitable and
d (we thought) the problems of unrest were settled. Items of
ous importance that claimed our attention were:

Final ratification of the separation of Norfolk
Division from VSC. Their first Board of Visitors
meeting convened February 1, 1969.

A study of the faculty handbook for revision.
Special attention was paid to "Retiring Policy."

- . The approval of the Faculty Senate Constitution.
- . Organizational revision endorsed by self-study committee and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- . The addition of Graduate programs in educational media, educational administration, music education and industrial education.
- . The status of the School of Agriculture.

spite of our thinking as Board members, we learned of renewal on the campus. Approval of the Faculty Senate Constitution proved to be an area of real concern. There was divided opinion among the faculty and between Board members as to the intent of the Constitution." After much study and exchange of ideas, it was approved by the Board.

In the spring of 1969 it became obvious to us that student unrest was prevalent. We began convening some of our Board meetings in different places in the area of VSC so as to carry on the business of the college..

The atmosphere on the college campus was extremely explosive. It could have blown off at any moment during the next ten to twenty months. Had it not been for a small group of students who were controlling and policing student groups on campus, who do not know to this date what may have happened. A lot of credit must go to Hulon Willis and a group of students who helped him control these terrible situations of outburst.

In December 1967, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia released a publication called the Virginia Plan for Higher Education. The plan as it relates to Virginia State College stated, "Virginia State College – Petersburg offers baccalaureate programs in 10 fields and master's degrees in almost 20. Neither the current enrollment nor projected enrollment justifies academic offerings of this magnitude and in the Council's opinion some reductions in the number of programs are needed. Especially, the program in agriculture should be merged with that of VPI and located on the Blacksburg Campus." "A reduction in its variety of offerings, Virginia State College – Petersburg should devote its efforts to making its undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences and professional education of such quality as to receive national recognition." "The State Council believes this should receive the highest priority of attention from the Board of Governors, administration, and faculty of the College!"

January 28, 1968 not even sixty days after the Council's
tion, our Board, after a very careful study of the plan, sent the
ble Mills E. Godwin, Jr., Governor, a letter in which the
Plan as it relates to VSC was rejected. We requested that we
ne to study in detail, to confer with parties who have an in-
the program, to consult with the Council, and to arrive at our
cision. Likewise, we also protested the Council's request to limit
uce offerings in degree and master programs. Our Board was
ed to meet with the Council on May 1, 1968 to discuss our
on the plan. From the time the Virginia Plan was released as
s to VSC, through the entire year of 1969, there was real con-
all persons interested in VSC. This included alumni, students,
, friends of education regardless of race and Board members.
1968, Dean Elwood B. Boone, Sr., wrote, "Lets Face It."
elease, he said, "The deferment of the state action on the role of
the Virginia Plan for Higher Education has not settled any-
Neither the Board of Visitors, nor the State Council, nor the
or's office has expressed publicly any change in position re-
the role of the college since the controversy began." That was
The Council did not change its position in spite of our request
test. Hardly any support was coming from any outside source.
e was lighted! Petitions were circulated, concerned citizens
ed, concerned students and faculty members became quite
alumni outspoken. That was it!

ailed to mention that I was elected Rector of the Board on
5, 1969. I had served as Vice-Rector for a year prior to this
Rector Bradshaw had served well during his term following
Wayne's almost four years of leadership. I have on many
ns wished Mr. Bradshaw's health had permitted him to contin-
ugh to the end of his term on the Board. His council was
on many occasions for he is a respected and admired citizen.
lthough there were many items that we had to deal with during
iod, the School of Agriculture was one of the most important
The report the Board received on October 22, 1969 was that
ollment in that school was continuing to decline. The report
enrollment was 110 students against 139 for 1968. There were
easons for the declining enrollment. Some of those were: the
n of what the future is for the School of Agriculture, students
lecting other fields of concentration.... Also, it was pointed out
e decline was a nation-wide pattern, and, that VSC is just about
predominately land grant institution which still continues its
n in agriculture.

special meeting of the Board was called and held on December 1, at which time the Board heard a report from President Tucker regarding the School of Agriculture. Prior to this meeting the Board took no action on a merger. It had voiced its protest at an earlier meeting.

The report, as indicated to us, had the definite understanding that as a real concern on the part of the Governor, some legislators on the Budget Committee and the State Council of Higher Education were concerned over the allotment for VSC for the biennium. That there were no funds for capital outlay and the M & O funds requested exceeded the funds available, and that there would be some cuts. On further investigation with one of our Senators, he indicated, that the total sum may be cut out for the next biennium. Further discussion with the President of VPI and the Dean of Agriculture resulted in a plan being developed and submitted to the Director of the State Council and the Governor who indicated the plan seemed feasible. The plan —

That the faculty of the School of Agriculture did vote in favor of the merger.

That the catalogue requisition supported by the Federal grant was under question by the Budget Office in view of the developments. And, that the Governor had sent a copy of the memo of understanding to the Budget Office.

What was the memo of understanding? This was shocking to us! A memo was prepared and handed to the Board to “rubber stamp.” Not a single member of the Board was in agreement to this understanding. After discussion and prodding into the matter, we settled down and made recommendations of merger. The Board capitulated under the threat to merger of the School of Agriculture with that of VPI because of the threat to cut off funds, and; there seemed to be no other choice. We expressed concern:

The inability of VPI to accommodate all the students in the state who will wish to pursue studies in agriculture, and

Whether the state will continue to give full financial support to the agricultural program at VSC through the effective date of the merger.

The Board expressed the fact that there is much evidence to support the contention that the School of Agriculture at VSC has been

ct asset to the surrounding area and the state.
re publication of this information to the public, as well as to
ulty and students was made simultaneously. There was already
rotest on campus. This, however, was like the atom bomb!
is all that was needed!

uch concern reached the Board about this matter. Concern
he Alumni, the faculty, friends, and citizens throughout the
y. Special reaction to this matter came to us from the Student
ment of VSC, the faculty senate, and most vocal was "The
ttee of VSC Concerned Students and Faculty."

January 4, 1970 the Virginia State College concerned stu-
nd faculty members submitted thirteen demands to the Board.
ere:

Virginia State College Concerned Students & Faculty
January 4, 1970

. Inasmuch as the Virginia State College Concerned Students
ulty has had rejected three requests for an open meeting of
rd of Visitors with the students and faculty of the College, we
l a meeting of the Board of Visitors with the students and
on February 4, 1970 in Virginia Hall Auditorium.

. Inasmuch as grave concern has been expressed with respect
ontinued existence of our other Land-Grant Schools (Home
ics, Industries and Commerce), we demand to know from our
f Visitors the present status and future plans for those schools
other School of the College.

. Inasmuch as educational programs at the College have been
ly affected by the difficulty in securing funds already appro-
by Federal and State agencies and whereas various departments
College have not yet received budgetary allocations, we demand
gh investigation of the budget situation.

. Inasmuch as the Council of Higher Education charts the
at Institutions of Higher Education will take in Virginia and
h as the present composition of the Council is all white, we
that two blacks be selected for the Council from lists sub-
y the students and faculty of Virginia State College and of
State College.

. Inasmuch as the policy on summer school offerings has been
after the school year began, the said policy change made
consultation with department heads or students, we demand
se courses required of and expected by students for graduation
st be scheduled for this summer and that for ensuing summers
or of Summer School be appointed to develop the summer

m on a sound and rational basis.

6. Inasmuch as the Board of Visitors and the administrative s have not stated an official position on the crucial matter of relationship of Richard Bland College to Virginia State College, and an official public statement on this matter before the Assembly convenes in January.

7. Inasmuch as the Department of Health, Education, and e will require a desegregation plan of Virginia State College within s, we demand the election of a committee of students and r to draw up a desegregation plan which will include the incor- on of Richard Bland College into Virginia State College.

8. Whereas the faculty and students of Virginia State College ot involved in the decision to merge Virginia State College's l of Agriculture with Virginia Polytechnic Institute's School of Iture and inasmuch as Health, Education, and Welfare will re- a desegregation plan within 90 days, we demand a reversal of the on to merge and that final consumation of the merger not be ed until the students and faculty can evaluate the full import of rger.

9. Inasmuch as a college community should be a free commu- ith all lines of communication open, we demand that all minutes tings (Departmental, Directors, Executive Council, Faculty s, and Board of Visitors), annual reports and other official do- ts which pertain to the college operation be available for perus- epting that information which would be damaging to the indivi-

0. Inasmuch as the students and faculty of Virginia State Col- ive not been involved in the decision making process and where- administration at Virginia State College seems indisposed to in- students and faculty in such processes, we demand that one t and one faculty member be elected to the Board of Visitors, ch as there are presently legal prohibitions involved, we demand id elected student and faculty member immediately sit on the as non-voting members until the legal prohibitions are resolved.

1. The Dean of Virginia State College should play a primary and ant role in the development of academic programs at the college. re has taken the position that cutbacks in programs, without tation of the faculty or student body, are in the best interests of llege and since a recent faculty survey indicates that he no long- the confidence of the faculty, we demand that he resign his on as Dean so that Virginia State College may grow rather than

Inasmuch as the current critical period in the history and development of Virginia State College requires a President who can revere and cherish our past, direct with integrity our present, ensure the future, and develop the confidence and trust of his faculty and student body, and inasmuch as President James F. Tucker has demonstrated a lack of leadership qualities in each of these areas, we demand his immediate resignation.

Whereas freedom of speech and the right to protest are essential and necessary components of our academic community and whereas they are the basic rights of the individual, we demand that no reprisals be made, at anytime, against the Virginia State College community of Student and Faculty.

Even though we (The Board members) were quite disturbed over the very important issues they expressed, I had no intention of meeting the student body at that time in a confrontation, and stated such to the Board. I felt a small representative group could reach an understanding much quicker than a few hundred students. I did agree to a meeting of the Board (subject to Board members' approval) on January 7, at 10:30 A.M., to listen to presentations from three groups from the college. These groups were to make their presentations according to ground rules we set up. The groups were SGA, the Alumni, the VSC Concerned Students and Faculty representatives. After listening to these groups the Board went into Executive Session.

At the end of the session the statement below was released.

Information Office
Virginia State College
Blacksburg, Virginia 23803
Room 10

January 7, 1970

Immediate Release

Blacksburg — The Board of Visitors of Virginia State College met on the campus and listened to statements presented by the VSC Student Government Association, Alumni Association and representatives of the VSC Concerned Students and Faculty.

With reference to some of the demands presented, the Board stated that it was sympathetic to the demand that the State Council of Higher Education have a broader base with reference to its racial composition.

nd, the Board indicated that the responsibility for making
tments to any state board rests with the governor. It noted
y legitimate group could recommend to the governor persons
the group thought should be members of such organizations.
oting that the College has a committee, composed of faculty,
ts, alumni, administration and board members, on Mission and
of Virginia State College, the Board is looking forward to re-
a progress report at its next meeting. It is expected that this
will clarify some of the issues presented by the group today.
lgin Lowe, rector of the Board, also said "plans were being
o investigate and consider all points of view and concern at a
g of the Board this month."

he statement we released through the Public Information Office
did not answer those posed by Concerned Students and
y members directly. We knew this, but; we had to make known
rious desire and concern for VSC. The thirteen demands were
rious ones! We needed time to investigate some of the allega-
ade. Some of the demands deserved serious consideration.
id number eleven(11) and twelve (12), as far as we were con-
at the time, were ridiculous! We stated in no uncertain terms
e had utmost confidence in President Tucker and Dean Boone.
he hearings with both the SGA and the Alumni groups were
uitful to us in our deliberations. We learned by listening to
roups, i.e., lines of communication were down generally, there
undercurrent movement among faculty members to disrupt,
s concern was given to requesting a black member on the State
il of Higher Education, Richard Bland oppositon, VSC remain
minent college in the area, the help to and for deprived
ts.....

n January 9, 1970, a report from President Tucker to all Board
ers indicated that it seemed as if things had improved. The mass
g held by Concerned Students drew only about 300 students
red to about 2,000 at the beginning of the movement.

n January 15, 1970 I sent a letter to each Board member ex-
g my view on Bland College vs VSC, the concerns of students,
aculty members, and the confidence we should place in the
ent and the Dean of VSC. (See Appendix 2)

n the meantime, we had received the recommended budget for
'72. A careful analysis of the budget for 1970-72 showed the
mendations to be \$1,185,180.00 less than the college requested
e first year and \$1,208,455.00 less than the college requested

second year. Obviously, the college could not operate efficiently on a recommended cut of this kind.

There was a lot of political maneuvering at this point concerning the budget for VSC and the request from the Commissioner of Administration to the President to have his report in before the Board meeting. President Tucker did not want to do this, and replied that the college could not operate on this cut. In fact, he was asking for restoration of most of the recommended cuts. The Appropriations Committee was recommending only a 11% increase for VSC as compared to 42.68% for four-year institutions in the State. As a result, this, President Tucker, our Fiscal Affairs Committee, and a number of us appeared before the joint House Appropriations and Finance Committee. Results????

The strain was beginning to show on the President's face as well as Dr. Boone, Dean of the College. The Board members felt that the tenseness on campus was boiling again. Concerned students were demanding answers to their demands. We (the Board) decided it would be better not to answer the demands point by point, but, that we were going to bring each item and we also wanted a report from the Committee on Mission and Scope as well as indication from the State Council regarding the future of VSC. Hence, this release:

**BOARD OF VISITORS
VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE**

January 28, 1970

The Board of Visitors of Virginia State College is considering the needs of the college groups and is in the process of reappraising the whole operation of Virginia State College through approval and appointment of a Committee on Mission and Scope. This Committee is composed of faculty, students, alumni, administration and a member of the Board. A meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Friday, January 29.

The Board requested the President to take immediate steps to schedule at an early date a meeting which was postponed in May with the State Council of Higher Education to explore with everybody the future role of Virginia State College.

The Board was pleased to be informed that President Tucker requested the Faculty Senate to draw up guidelines for the total operation of the College. The recommendations of the Senate will be presented to the proper officials of the State for inclusion in the report to HEW on the State's System of Higher Education.

the Board authorized its Fiscal Affairs Committee and the Ad-
mission to schedule an appointment with the joint House Appro-
priations and Senate Finance Committee for the purpose of seeking
funds necessary for the efficient maintenance and oper-
ation of the College during the next biennium.

The Board was pleased to learn from President Tucker that the
Council of Higher Education approved on January 15, 1970
to offer a new graduate program in Educational Media.
It was expressed over the fact that the State Council of Higher
Education has approved three new graduate programs, and has auth-
orized the granting of the degree of Master of Education in several
matter areas since the publication of the Virginia Plan in
October 1967.

The Board is sympathetic to the desires of students and faculty
representation on the Board of Visitors and to have black rep-
resentation on the State Council of Higher Education; however,
commitments to these two bodies are the statutory responsibility of
the Governor of the Commonwealth.

It is the policy and responsibility of the College to offer any
program in its curriculum whenever there is sufficient demand in terms
of student enrollment and the financial and personnel resources are
available to the College to offer the same. This is a sound policy and
College officials are committed to its enforcement. However, any
modification of this policy will depend upon final action on the
requests of the College by the General Assembly.

Finally, the Board of Visitors acknowledges its responsibility to
represent the State of Virginia in the administration of the College
and its members will continue to carry out their duties to the best of
their ability. The Board is firmly dedicated not only to the continua-
tion but also to the growth and improvement of the College. At
all times, the Board will act in the best interest of Virginia State Col-
lege, the State of Virginia and the students that this College serves in
providing quality education; it will seek to perform its duties in
a manner which will be fair to the faculty, administrative officers,
and students.

At this time the Board wishes to make it entirely clear to all
interested parties that the administrative officers of the College have been
reappointed after careful consideration. Further, they have the full
support and backing of the Board, in particular the President, Dr.
W. Tucker, and the Dean of the College, Dr. Elwood B. Boone,
who have been subjected to what the Board believes to be unjustified
criticism and harassment.

President Tucker and I were in touch by telephone and by persis periodically and sometime daily by the beginning of Feb- Board members were brought up-to-date at a meeting on y 7, 1970 of these events. A mass meeting held on the cam- dent parading to the vicinity of the President's home, singing and uttering statements of obscene nature, and lighting what resentative of an effigy near his front door on Monday night, y 2, was of great concern to President Tucker. On Tuesday ie students marched again. Nogotiations followed with con- rsonnel which seemed to temporarily stop the marching. On day night following a meeting to discuss the guidelines, Dr. was embarrassed, Mr. E. Tucker was not permitted to enter the g and Mr. Dabney not allowed to secure water. On Thursday , President Tucker was delivered a message to appear at an ly on Friday. Upon learning that the purpose of the meeting present him with petitions to resign, he and his family left the . Only 50 percent of the students were attending classes the art of the week and on Friday no one attended class. was evident the situation was out of hand. The Board consi- everal moves: to close the school, to request the Governor to national guard, to close temporarily and then re-open only for who wanted to continue school in an orderly manner. Much ion followed regarding the whole situation. The decisions this meeting concerned: the course of action to take - to close ool, the proper channels to use if this action was taken, students how the courts would look at it, identifying those who were lers, seeking the support of the Governor and many others. nt Attorney General, Walter Ryland, was in attendance during eting and assisted our thinking from a legal point of view. nt Tucker was given the authority to request the Governor to SC if it became necessary. All of us left this meeting disturbed! n February 9, 1970 I received the telegram below, as well as a one call in my office.

WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAM

ary 9, 1970

gin Lowe, Rector
ia State College Board of Visitors
aple Street
k, Virginia 23434

sons pertaining to the best interest of my immediate family, I submitted my resignation as President of Virginia State College, effective in thirty days. Please accept my deep appreciation for your loyal support and wise counsel during my tenure in

7. Tucker, President

Many meetings and conferences of the Board were held during the next several weeks. Among the areas of concern were: the resignation of President Tucker, the demand of Concerned Students Faculty members that all Board members resign, the threat to Dr. Tucker and the demand that he resign, the delegating of authority to Walker H. Quarles, Jr.

On February 25, 1970 the Board, in Executive Session, discussed the resignation of Dr. James F. Tucker, President of VSC, the possibility of accepting his resignation if only until the end of June. After receiving a statement from him regarding his family's welfare and the impact effective he could be if he remained, the Board reluctantly accepted his resignation. Dr. Walker H. Quarles, Jr. was elected Acting President with full authority during his interim period along with a committee of three composed of Dr. E. B. Boone, Sr., Dean of the College; Mr. B. F. Dabney, Assistant to the President; and Mr. James H. Mas, Treasurer—Comptroller. Thus ended the presidency of James F. Tucker.

Also in the same meeting, the demand for the resignation of Dr. Boone was discussed. Dr. Boone had served many years as a faculty member with deep devotion and dedication to VSC, and finally as Dean of the College. The request for his resignation was not supported on facts against him in any way. The Board went on record and decided that "the Dean has the unqualified support and confidence of the Board and that he is requested not to resign." Dr. Boone is a capable and dedicated person. I am very glad he had the nerve to resign.

Likewise, only one member of the Board of Visitors resigned. The Rector was given the authority to appoint a committee, in consultation with Dr. Quarles, for the purpose of screening candidates for the position of President of VSC. It was decided that the committee would be composed of 2 or 16 persons with equal representation from the faculty, students, the alumni, and the Board of Visitors.

CHAPTER III

THE SELECTION OF A PRESIDENT

nce again Dr. Walker Quarles, Jr. accepted the position of Act-
sident of VSC on February 25, 1970. Again, Dr. Quarles
his ability to work with people, having known and learned so
when he was assistant to Dr. Daniel, then an Acting President
the interim following Dr. Tucker's resignation. He served
this period with distinction. He knew how to get the job

he selection and election of a president for any college is a
ge for any group. It requires a considerable amount of time,
travel, setting up criteria... in other words, "planning the job
orking the plan." Our committee was composed of Mrs.
y J. Harris, Vice-Rector, Chairman; Mrs. Gladys V.V. Morton,
ary to the Board; J. Shelby Guss, and Dr. Clayton Robbins from
ard. From the faculty were: Dr. James Beck, Dr. James Daven-
r. Milton Hinton, replaced by Dr. Mack Gipson, and Dr.
Payne. From the students -- Mr. Jerome Johnson, LeDell
ider, Larry Thompson and Edward Hairston.
he Alumni members were: Mr. A. M. Banks, Mrs. Ethel Lowe,
A. Ragland and Mr. Ernest Stephens. This group of sixteen
, with the support and aid of many people, went about the
f selecting a president of VSC. They had a tremendous obliga-
perform, but; they carried it through in splendid fashion.
he committee for the screening of candidates for the President
met initially in the spring of 1970 and set up an operating
or such actions. Most important was the forming of criteria for
on by the Board. The criteria listed here is the base from which
mmittee began its duty. It followed, for the most part, all
as through the entire process then presented its findings to the

THE CRITERIA

SECTION I

quirements of the President of Virginia State College
resident of Virginia State College:

Must give creative and progressive leadership in
education and research to the college.

Must provide efficient administrative support
for the total educational program of the college.

2. Must recognize the importance of the organization of the personnel and functions of the College, existing policies and procedures, and must regard them in operation of the Institution.
3. Must be committed professionally to the principle of institution-wide student, faculty and staff participation in the decision-making functions of the college.
4. Must be an active supporter of the principle of free men in a free society acting with responsibility.
5. Must be intellectually honest and have the courage to express faithfully his position on a specific subject.
6. Must have the ability to listen attentively to the presentation of a situation or problem, to identify the issue accurately and promptly, to consider the relevant facts, and to reach an appropriate conclusion without undue delay.
7. Must be able to win and to maintain the active support for his administration of the faculty, staff, and students on the strength of his leadership ability, personal qualities and the soundness of his educational program.
8. Must be objective in all of his relations and must treat all members of the college community justly and with respect.
9. Must recognize the worth, contributions, and opinions of students, faculty, staff, and alumni as individuals, regardless of their rank or status.
10. Must be an effective spokesman for the college and a convincing interpreter of its needs, mission and program.
11. Must be capable of preparing, presenting, defending, and utilizing the budget as an instrument of support for the educational policies and program of the College, including research.
12. Must provide an efficient system of management, including the modernization of equipment and efficacious care of the physical properties and related services of the college.

- N. Must delegate and recognize authority commensurate with responsibility.
- O. Must have had wide experience in the academic world, including a record of effective education and/or other administration.
- P. Must possess an earned doctor's degree.
- Q. Must foster policies of appointment and advancement such as that each instance enhances the efficiency and image of the college.
- R. Must have a keen and active interest in quality education and should give leadership toward upgrading educational endeavors at the institution.
- S. Must envision for the College a meaningful and competitive role in an integrated society.
- T. Must be a person of high moral character who respects the religious freedom of the college community.
- U. Must have a sensitivity to cultural values and concerns for the cultural tone of the College community; and
- V. Must be in the age group of 35 – 50 years.

SECTION II APPLICATION OF THE CRITERIA

Obviously, it is unlikely the Board of Visitors will find any one candidate who completely meets all of the criteria recommended. Therefore, it may be necessary and desired by the Board to have some knowledge of the relative importance the faculty and staff attach to criteria. Certainly, the Board is aware of the great difficulty we would encounter in providing you at this time a rank order of the criteria. The relative significance could be assessed more satisfactorily if not only a few criteria were involved in reaching a decision. It is for this reason that the request is made to have representation of the faculty and staff during the process of screening the applicants.

We, the Faculty and Staff, are confident the Board of Visitors will use the recommended criteria in a manner which ultimately will result in the selection and appointment of the best qualified available person to be the President of Virginia State College.

SECTION III

IDENT INVOLVEMENT IN SCREENING OF APPLICANTS

We the Faculty and Staff support the proposal that there should be student representation during the process of screening the applicants.

SECTION IV

ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION

On October 9, 1967, the Faculty and Staff of the Virginia State College formally approved this document and directed the Dean of the College to prepare and forward to the Board of Visitors a report on actions and proposals on matters relating to the selection and appointment of the next President of Virginia State College. —EBB

Our Screening Committee performed the task of screening candidates diligently. They kept in contact with the Board and the Faculty at regular intervals, performing its task through to the end of the year within six months. More than fifty applications were received and reviewed thoroughly. At least five or six candidates were interviewed. Each stated that although the college was predominantly white, he would be pleased to be given serious consideration. The committee narrowed its candidates to five persons. Each of the candidates was invited in by the Board for additional interviews. One of the five turned the interview down without coming in for the interview, two others were elected to other positions and two came for the interview.

The Board of Visitors of Virginia State College voted unanimously to and did offer the position of President to Dr. Wendell P. Russell. Dr. Russell at that time was Assistant to the Vice-President, Corporate Public Relations and Advertising, American Can Company, New York. Dr. Russell assumed the presidency on November 1, 1970.

Many issues faced the Board during this period besides the regular business of budget preparation, salary adjustment, assignment of teachers, constructing buildings, renovation of buildings, attention to the dining room in Jones Hall and ... Other matters besides the already mentioned of serious concern were: Richard Bland College (William & Mary), voiding the merger of the School of Agriculture, the Kowtoniuk case, seeking a decent salary for the President, and many others.

A CHANGE IN THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

I look back over the events as they relate to the School of Agriculture, my impression of the reasons for the change in status of the School was caused by a combination of happenings. The protest certainly had a bearing on the outcome. The march to the State Capitol with approximately 2,300 students and faculty displaying dissatisfaction on the proposed merger was important.

The stand taken by the Alumni Association and the conference with legislators was definitely a factor. More citizens than people knew about used their influence in bringing about the change. Individual members of our Board as well as the Board as a whole were in constant touch with Governor Holton concerning the contemplated move. A few other factors not mentioned here which we had an indirect bearing also. Hence, it is safe to conclude that the change came about because all factors were directed toward maintaining the School of Agriculture.

Prior to the meeting of the Board (May 27) the bill in legislation to retain the School of Agriculture had passed, yet the administration had not received official word of it, nor; the amount allotted.

When then, the faculty of the School of Agriculture was making an effort to recruit students. Brochures were being prepared for distribution, scholarships were being made available to students, and efforts were being used to recruit 300 students who were not to gain admission to VPI. When the official news of approval of the legislation arrived, we were very pleased.

RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE

Richard Bland College has been mentioned several times throughout the previous chapters. The status of this institution was of concern to many organizations, citizens, alumni, faculty, members, staff and others throughout the nation. Virginia faculty and staff sent a resolution to the Board in early 1967, and numerous communications came to our attention as telegrams, telephone calls and letters. Most of all, these communications spoke of the escalation of Richard Bland because VSC offers degrees on the undergraduate and graduate level; because the two colleges are within a six mile radius of each other, it would perpetuate separation of the colleges; because it appears unsound financially, administratively, and morally; and because VSC is already a part of the integral

ary plans for the same. The planning stopped suddenly. June 30, 1970, action was brought against us (Summons in ion) in United States District Court – Eastern District of nd Division. Ethel M. Morris, an infant who sued by Gran-Morris, father and next friend, et al as plaintiff v. State Co-Higher Education for Virginia, et al. Parties for the plaintiff borah Farley, Brenda Cole, Portia Turner, Beverly Mason, Stevens, Laura A. White, James Beck, Florence Farley, George on, Sam Mofett, Peter Nemenyil and Corey Stronach. The nts were State Council of Higher Education, Governor Lin-olton, Board of Visitors of William and Mary, Board of Virginia State College, Dr. Davis Paschall, President of and Mary, Dr. James Carson, President Richard Bland and cer Quarles, Jr., Acting President, VSC. e case was presided over by Judges John D. Butzner, Jr., U. it Judge, Robert H. Merhige, U. S. District Judge and Walter man, Chief Justice, U. S. District Court. e decision as rendered by the court was (in part)

The appropriations act of 1970 violates the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution insofar as it provides for the escalation of Richard Bland College to third and fourth year status;

The Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary and the President of Richard Bland College, their officers, agents and employees and those persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this order by personal service or otherwise, are enjoined from escalating Richard Bland College to the status of a four year undergraduate granting institution.

e opinion of the Court in this litigation involving our Board as favorable to us. There was a sigh of relief. This brief spell did not last long, for William and Mary's Board of Visitors appeal to the Supreme Court. On October 26, 1971, the e Court entered the following order, "The Judgement is d." Thank Goodness!

CHAPTER IV

THE SEVENTH PRESIDENT

Dr. Russell became Virginia State College's seventh president on October 1, 1970. We felt the decision that was made by all parties involved, and particularly that of the Screening Committee and the Board of Visitors, was a wise one. We felt, also, quite fortunate in securing Dr. Russell because of his training in education and experience as a teacher, a minister and dean of a college; his entire academic background was excellent. It was the opinion of the Board of Visitors that Dr. Russell would provide the kind of leadership VSC needed. His first few days as president revealed his warmth, intellectual acuity, clear grasp of the needs of the college, his friendliness, yet firmness, and his dedication to a commitment. He immediately filled a void which had existed for a long time.

On November 12, 1970, Dr. Russell addressed the college community in his first official public speech. His address, entitled, "To Honor and Rectify" was a challenge to the college community, and to the Board of Visitors, that they could "Rectify" the issues that VSC faced. The address was not designed to give his philosophy of education, what he expected to do or how it would be done. Rather, it was designed to instill confidence in faculty members, students, alumni and others. In his speech, the new president suggested that by working together we could and must become the major institution in higher education in the Petersburg area and elsewhere. The cooperation of all parties was solicited by him in helping:

- 1) To apply modern management concepts to the administration of the college;
- 2) To examine curricula offerings and revamp them in terms of student needs and marketable skills;
- 3) To develop programs relevant to the community we serve, and;
- 4) To explore the possibility of other lucrative fields for offerings to our students.

Dr. Russell promised to be fair to students, to listen to their suggestion and respond to them and to administer the institution in a businesslike manner. He gave praise to those who had served the college in the past and asked all to work within the system to bring about changes for the good of VSC.

address had a solidifying effect upon the community, Ad-
ors and faculty members felt at ease in approaching him,
were pleased to chat with him. From all appearances it
he was in complete command. The board was pleased and
see an immediate change in attitude in the community.
o critical periods occurred when VSC was without a president
two year period. Dr. Daniel died February 5, 1968 and on
7 25, 1970, Dr. Tucker resigned, thus leaving the college with-
sident. On each occasion, the Board discussed what action
l to take to insure continued operation of the college. A
ee of three persons was really responsible for the burden of
through on all matters concerning the operation of the col-
ave already mentioned Dr. Walker Quarles. The other three
od B. Boone, Mr. James B. Cephas, Treasurer-Comptroller;
Bernadin Dabney, Assistant to the President.
s committee worked together as one on all issues concerning
ge. The Board expressed its "Thanks" to the committee for
ll done. I am sure we would have been at a great loss had
n not been able to join us in holding the college together.
these persons worked diligently as dedicated individuals to
e of holding together VSC.

February 24, 1971, Dr. Elwood B. Boone, Dean of the Col-
nally announced his resignation as Dean of the College,
August 31, 1971. He said "this was in line with the belief
ean that the chief administrative officer of an institution
ave the privilege to choose his key administrative personnel."
: Board of Visitors thanked Dr. Boone for his services and ex-
admiration for his courage and bravery during a very trying
f unrest at the college. Dr. Boone had carried out the policies
ished by the Board. We accepted his resignation with regret.
en Dr. Russell assumed the presidency on November 1, 1970,
eared to be a reawakening of ideals in the community. Un-
becoming calm. Administration, faculty and students wanted
ogether to help soothe the wounds. For example, the student
ent association expressed through Dr. James F. Nicholas, the
ctor, the wish to secure adequate communication to and from
d. The Faculty Senate appeared in a joint meeting with the
here a free exchange of ideas took place. Other important
eemed to be falling into place. Once again the idea was ex-
hat the Board set aside one or two days annually, at least, to
n the faculty, students and alumni. This would allow the

Community a chance to have some input into the affairs of the college. It was stated also that twenty to thirty minutes quarterly would be used effectively in an open hearing of the Board on issues of importance to the college and for constructive criticism. Many significant events took place during the next two years. Among those I consider extremely important were these items, not necessarily in order.

1. The recommended revision of the Faculty Handbook submitted by the Faculty Senate.
2. The court case of Dr. Filimon D. Kowtoniuk.
3. The naming of Buildings.
4. The Richard Bland College expansion.
5. The Reorganization of the School of Agriculture.
5. The Mission and Scope Committee.
7. The Selection and appointment of Dr. Valmore R. Goines as Dean of Academic Services.
8. Reorganization of the college and implementation.
9. Co-Ed Visitation.
9. The implementation of the Zimmer Report on Improved Management.
1. The Conference with congressional leaders in Washington on May 6, 1971.
2. The Cluster Program.
3. Officer Personnel Organization.
4. Dormitory and Dining Hall Renovation.
5. Installation and inauguration of Dr. Wendell P. Russell as seventh President of Virginia State College.
5. The Action of The Committee on tenure.

THE INAUGURATION

Wendell P. Russell was inaugurated as the seventh President of Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia, on May 21, 1972 during commencement exercises. The Inaugural Luncheon honoring Dr. Russell was held at Fort Lee Officer's Open Mess at Fort Lee, Virginia. The Inaugural Committee was composed of Dr. Harry A. Johnson, Chairman; Mr. Gennaro A. Acanfora, Mrs. Martha J. Bridgeforth, Mr. Robert C. Cunningham, Mr. Bernadin F. Dabney, LTC Morris F. Dendy, Mrs. Edna M. Mack, Mr. John B. Saunders, and Mrs. Marlene J. Simpson. The entire affair was appropriately planned and carried out.

Two statements below were made by the writer during both inauguration and the luncheon.

THE INAUGURATION STATEMENT

The Inauguration of Wendell Phillips Russell as
seventh President of Virginia State College
Petersburg, Virginia

May 21, 1972

Virginia State College came into being because of a small group led by Mr. A. W. Harris, a Negro member of the House of Delegates from Petersburg, who had a vision and a dream which they were determined to bring to fruition. And they did. Those days were trying especially for these first and second generation freedmen. But Harris and his colleagues used their competencies to lead the bill through the General Assembly, and on March 6, 1882, established what is now Virginia State College.

Eighty years later, fourth and fifth generation freedmen are also faced with a multiplicity of problems. Indeed, it appears as if our whole country is in trouble. Such problems and difficulties impose upon this generation the importance and the seriousness of the mission it must fulfill which is as complex and as imperative as at any time in its history.

The choice of leadership is so extremely important in these times that the Board of Visitors and the Search Committee invested much time and effort in the choice of a president. The objectives were to find a person who was well trained academically, who had administrative ability and experience, and who was an educator with experience, and sound judgement. It is fortunate that a man meeting those qualifications was found in the person of Wendell Phillips Russell, a former director of public affairs for the American Can Company, and former academic dean at Virginia Union University to mention only a few of the many significant positions this illustrious educator has held. Since his arrival at Virginia State College on November 1, 1970, Wendell Russell has exhibited educational acumen and executive capabilities which have led this college through these difficult days.

I am therefore, as Rector of the Board of Visitors, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Commonwealth of Virginia, I do hereby formally install you Wendell Phillips Russell, as seventh President of Virginia State College and do hereby present you this medallion which symbolizes the responsibility, obligation and authority of the office.

INAUGURAL LUNCHEON STATEMENT

In Honor of
Dr. Wendell P. Russell
by
Rector, Elgin Lowe

Distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen, and especially to the
ds of Dr. Wendell P. Russell, we are honored to have you as our
t today at the activities that are planned in the inauguration of
Russell as the seventh President of Virginia State College.

Ninety years ago on March 6, 1882, Virginia State College became
lity by a bill sponsored by Alfred W. Harris, a member of the
nia legislature. Some four years later, there were accomodations
50 pupils and tuitions was only \$3.35 each three months, and
and board was \$20.00. During its early history, Virginia State
a Board of Visitors. Later, this board was abolished and the Board
ducation assumed control of the college.

In 1964, the State of Virginia re-established Boards of Visitors
ts colleges. Three of us here today, Mrs. Gladys V. V. Morton, Mr.
er Myers, and I were members of the original board who will leave
nd of June, 1972. (All board members present please stand).

Governing boards of colleges and universities derive their authority
the law. Legally, the full and final control for an institution lies
the board. Among its many responsibilities of trust are:
rry out the ethical responsibilities involved in the education of
h and the quest for knowledge; to manage the institution in the
ic interests; to account to official bodies and to the public for
ons taken and funds used; to hold title to endowment funds, and
ecute other specific trusts. By virtue of precedents and delegation
thority, in practice the board gives the officers and faculty a sub-
tial voice in determining policies and programs.

Some members of this board have served with one very commend-
and able president, the late Dr. R. P. Daniel, and in the selection
vo other presidents. About two years ago, we were again without
llege president. On this occasion, as well as the last one, the Board
isitors asked for and sought the help of members of the faculty
the student body. Advice of others outside the college was even
sidered.

All the parties involved in the selection of a president, the Board
bers, the Screening Committee, faculty members and students,
ngly insisted that certain basic principles were to be observed.

CHAPTER V

REFLECTIONS

Upon being elected Rector to the Board of Visitors, June 17, Edward Wayne, said (in essence), this was a group of men and women who had little knowledge of what they should or should not be doing in running a college. On the other hand, there were people on the Board who had vast experiences in varied fields, and; that he was sure we could all pool our experiences for the good of VSC. Our experiences together with those of the administrative staff members will make a combination worthy of our appointments. Booker T. Shaw, who preceded me, had the same feeling concerning the Board. Restricted activities ordered by his physician, caused Mr. Shaw to serve only a short term as rector.

When I was elected rector, June 25, 1969, I had many feelings and concerns about the position. Thoughts like, can I measure up to the responsibilities of the office, will I have the time to put into doing out some of the details required, will the Board members have the same or better working relationship with the new rector, do I have sufficient knowledge of finances to deal with the large budget allocated for a school of this size, passed through my mind; there were many other thoughts of a similar nature. I will not attempt to evaluate the quality of my leadership as rector of the Board; history will be an appropriate judge.

I must pay tribute to all of the members of the Board for their sincere devotion and dedication to VSC and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Legally, the Board is an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In order to discharge its mission, Board meetings were held quarterly, except for called meetings. Attendance at these meetings, for the most part, was good. All members spoke freely of their own convictions and experiences. There were times when there was real disagreement, but, never temper flares to the extent for a meeting to break-up. Our most heated discussion arose over the proposal to present an honorary degree to an outstanding individual. This discussion ended in each side seeing the other's point of view. On other occasions, discussions related to co-ed visitation, election of a resident generated considerable emotional expression but, by the action and resolving of the matters came to an agreeable conclusion.

Important matters need to be aired by all parties concerned in order to be resolved. The Board recognized this principle. Each member contributed to the discussion something worthwhile. Hence,

tever accomplishments (or failures) that occurred during our
ars, credit must be given to all.

According to the By-Laws of the Board, the President of the
is elected by the Board and serves at the pleasure of the
He (or she) is placed in charge as Chief Administrative Off-
s such, it is his responsibility to execute and direct all college
s. Of course, there is to be input from other persons, in-
faculty, staff and organizational units of the institution. No
son or official of this institution should exert more influence
college than the President. No one member (or more) of the
ould dictate either.

a predominantly black college, VSC must continue its strug-
gher education toward goals which may seem unattainable.
I believe the institution should strive to remain predominant-
t. I also believe it is more important to be outstanding regard-
the racial composition. Those persons seeking higher educa-
ll come to VSC if they know they will be able to compete
aduation with graduates of other outstanding colleges.
m a believer in a person's knowing what responsibility he is
ng. When I read that Earl Shiflett, Secretary to Education
Commonwealth of Virginia had initiated a meeting to
t new members of Boards with their obligations, I was very
for all persons appointed to Boards should have one or more
of orientation. A new person has no idea of the many tasks
st be performed. Further, during this time when there is
ress for younger persons to serve on Boards, Virginia should
r an honorarium or per diem pay for all members. Board
rs sacrifice many hours to serve in this capacity. It is an
ble task and one to be proud of, but, only persons with sub-
personal financial resources could possibly serve on Boards
do not offer even minimal supplemental financial remunera-

EIGHT YEARS

y eight years on the Board of Visitors of Virginia State
officially ended June 30, 1972. However, Governor Linwood
had some difficulty in selecting a replacement for me by
re, so I continued service until the October meeting of the
For three years of my eight on the Board, I served as Rector.
cannot say those last three years were easy ones; rather, they
ars of internal and external pressures. They were years of

tion for many of us. There were nights of fear on many
ons, and especially with the ringing of the telephone, the
of a news reporter, sought for advice or consoling of someone
It offended, the fear of students picketing near my home, the
ling of Board meetings elsewhere other than on campus, the
ng of funds to fight the Board legally in my church, and
others designed to hinder VSC. Yes, they were years I will
forget! Nor will many others as Board members and our
or those close to us. In spite of and because of these actions,
etermined to stay with it and did!

Although there was confusion, protest, dissention and various
of deceit, there was also the thrill of having accomplished
ing. I believe the outcome of all the confusion resulted in
eal progress being made. I am proud to have been a small
it!

Virginia has many prestigious colleges, and certainly among the
nding of higher learning is Virginia State College. Upon read-
: history of the beginning of VSC one can readily see that,
ough it started small physically, it began as an idea in the
of Alfred Harris and a few others who were instrumental in its
started. An idea is the beginning of many things. Few inven-
if any, were stumbled upon. Only a small number of the com-
f life came into being by accident. Magnificent ships are
d by ideas. Of the many colleges all over the world, in almost
case it was developed by an idea. It is important to remember
e prestige that VSC enjoys now had its beginning with an idea.
n March 6, 1982 Virginia State College will reach the century

It stands proudly on the lofty hill above the Appomatox
for all who will to enter its doors in search of wisdom and
edge. It has time and again graduated many students who
aken their places throughout the length and breadth of this
Hundreds of its former students are now men and women of
nding character, worthwhile citizens, teachers, professors,
: presidents, singers, authors, mathematicians, scientists...
e of the inspiration and ideas planted in them as students by
ted teachers at VSC.

The writer is firmly convinced that VSC has a firm foundation
which it will continue to instill into the minds of those who
ts walls ideals and training to fit them for life. The College
cated to the principle of inspiring, inquiry, seeking the truth,
; theories . . .

aving spent most all of my adult life as a teacher, a principal, administrator, I believe the teaching of youth is an occupation cannot be measured in dollars and cents. The pleasure one gets from it when you dig deep into a child's mind trying to give insight, by any number of ways, and his face lightens up suddenly knowing that he understands -- that's the joy above all else! VSC dedicated to inspiring, planting ideas, stimulating minds for action. We had dedicated personnel in all departments of VSC. We continue to have those who put teaching first. That is the purpose of the College! Anyone not interested in teaching should not enter into the profession.

The Board of Visitors directed the president of the College to develop and maintain a plan of organization through which the following activities could be directed: (a) Education, (b) Student Services, (c) Physical Facilities and Services, (d) Health and Safety, and (e) Extra Curricular activities. To these ends the rector was dedicated. The entire life of the College should have revolved around those activities. I believe it was our responsibility to see to it that this was done. It was the writer's desire to deal more in the implementation of programs that would improve the calibre of students in our college. We believed the instructors needed the time for thoughtful teaching, for research, and for innovative activities that would be reflected in the products we were sending out.

The writer was mindful of the fact that the Board of Visitors did not do it all alone. Our Board made mistakes. Future Boards also make mistakes occasionally. The Board, the President and all departments, regardless of position need suggestions, constructive criticism, and the best of all support from each other.

Upon reflecting upon certain past actions, our original Board admitted some acts of bureaucracy. Early Board meetings were in secrecy. The Executive Committee transacted a large part of the business. Hardly any input was received from other sources. We realized quickly this was not the way things should be. Our meetings became more open. Other organizations, groups and teachers had direct access to the Board through channels.

The Faculty Senate was an organization on the campus dedicated to improvement in many areas. The Senate had many members who demanded that immediate changes take place. I believe they were conscious in their desires. On some occasions, the Senate and Board seemed to have conflicting ideas. The conflicts appeared to relate to differences of opinions on how to get some things done. Sometimes there were personality conflicts and conflicts in goals. Board members felt the Senate would become the leader had it allowed

ate to follow through on many of its requests. Sometimes
ped on each other's toes but we learned. I feel a lot of
ould come from the Faculty Senate when it challenges its
toward teaching as its first responsibility.

ae Faculty Senate and other organizations should work to-
for the good of VSC. Constructive suggestions presented by
roups to the Board should always be welcomed.

rginia State College began in 1882 as a school for Negroes.
e purpose was to improve the quality of life of the blacks
that period of time by giving them the opportunity to obtain
training. For more than eighty years it served as a guiding
r many blacks who were poorly trained, disadvantaged, and
: those who were so called middle class. In 1964 VSC opened
rs to all races. This is as it should be! This is what most all
have fought for. I do feel that since this is a predominantly
chool that it should always be predominantly black. Blacks
ie feeling of "This is my school" security, a symbol, something
on to. It need never become otherwise.

et me hasten to add that even though VSC is now open to all
; a public institution, the writer feels it should always keep
s open for all who choose to enter. Furthermore, the primary
e for an institution of higher learning is to train minds, any
Race in the end should be secondary—higher learning first.
a State College is responsible to the human race. It has the
al to become prominent in special fields as an institution.
effort should be made to strengthen Virginia State College in
gories so that it can face its challenging future from a position
ngth. VSC must stand as a pillar of learning—the equal of any
nstitution of higher learning or perhaps a little better.

APPENDIX "I"

Virginia State College
Alumni Association
Petersburg, Virginia 23803

January 5, 1970

Board of Visitors
Virginia State College
Petersburg, Virginia
Dr. James F. Tucker
President
Virginia State College
Petersburg, Virginia

The representatives of the Virginia State College Alumni Association desire to discuss the following concerns with the board of visitors on Wednesday, January 7, 1970:

Board of Visitors position and attitude in reference to Virginia State College's future role in higher education.
(Alumni position depends on board's response)

Board of Visitors position and attitude on the consolidation of Virginia State College's agricultural program with that of VPI. (Alumni position is against)

Board of Visitors position and attitude in reference to Richard Bland College being allowed to duplicate programs taught at Virginia State College while Virginia State is constantly told that this type of situation is not possible.
(Alumni position questions use of funds at Richard Bland that could be used at Virginia State College)

We desire to reserve the privilege to develop further points that come forth in the discussion.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
/s/ H. E. Fauntleroy, Jr.
for Mary C. Parrish
President

APPENDIX "2"

Box 29
Virginia State College
Petersburg, Virginia
January 7, 1970

The Board of Visitors
Virginia State College
Petersburg, Virginia

Dr. James F. Tucker, President
Virginia State College
Petersburg, Virginia

The representatives of the Student Government Association
like to have the Board of Visitors discuss with it the following

1. We would like the Board to state its opinion and attitude towards the future growth and development of Virginia State College.
2. We would like the Board to utilize its full influence toward having our next governor appoint Blacks to the State Council on Higher Education.
3. We would like the Board to urge the next governor to appoint a student or recent Virginia State College graduate to its membership.
4. We would like the Board to share with the rest of the College community the "threat" of Richard Bland College and we urge that it use the full power of its office towards insuring that duplication of courses will not be accepted.
5. Realizing that in the event HEW should require merger, consolidation, et cetera of institutions of higher learning, we urge the Board to work to their extent to insure that Virginia State College will remain the more prominent institution.

We further request that we may be allowed time for general
ments concerning the College.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Beryl Sparrow, President
Student Government Association

/s/ Sammy Redd, Vice President
Student Government Association

APPENDIX "3"

ia State College
burg, Virginia

ay 15, 1970

Members of the Board of Visitors

/s/ Elgin Lowe

Elgin Lowe, Rector

Subject: Recent Matters of Interest

I am sure as Board Members, we are all acquainted with the
that led to our decision to merge the School of Agriculture of
with the College of Agriculture at VPI. This decision was based
ly on facts as we saw them develop over the years, but also on
developments brought to our attention.

It is true that our decision unfortunately fell into the pattern
as characterized most of the school mergers thus far, and our
instincts feel it is only the beginning of the end of VSC. The Rector
does not agree with this thinking. There will always be a place for
vocational education. All of us, Board Members, Alumni, faculty, stu-
dents and friends now have before us a challenge. It is to study very
thoroughly the mission and scope of the College now and for the fu-
ture. However, we must do more than study the mission and scope
of the College. Whatever we come up with must be a workable solu-
tion. We must also make our views known to anyone who can be of
help to the Governor, legislators, the State Council and influential
persons.

College presidents, deans, and other selected personnel should
be planning directions the colleges should take. Black college
presidents in particular, should form a group whose purpose is to plan
and manage programs for these institutions to be of real use as institu-
tions of higher learning for all people. It may very well lead to spec-
tacular achievement in certain fields of education. Whatever it leads to we
must be very strong in it. This may aid also in satisfying HEW.
The need to place blacks on the State Council of Education is
urgent for many reasons. May I simply urge that favorable considera-
tion be given to adding such members. Of course, the major burden
of such a request should come from other interested persons and
organizations.

Richard Bland vs. Virginia State College. These are two differ-
ent institutions in Virginia's pattern of colleges. As such, each is
governed by a different Board of Visitors. Both institutions have a
role in the field of education. It would be asinine for this Board
to say what Bland (William and Mary) can or cannot do, just as it
would be the same for Bland to say what we can or cannot do.

of Visitors
Two
y 15, 1970

in view of the fact that both colleges are very close in distance there is or may in the future be more duplication of courses, it seems to me that only an act of the legislature may have some effect in establishing a working relationship between the two schools. It would be a good idea if the two colleges could work out something on the subject of course offerings. I feel this Board should not voice a public opinion on merger at this time. We could let the Governor and the Council know our concern about the two institutions and let them see what we see taking place.

I listened with interest to each group as they made presentations. Each requested that the Board meet with the students on January 4. Even though their pleas seemed sincere, and I feel they were sincere, I cannot see any real good that can come out of it. Therefore, I recommend that this request be denied.

The members of this Board do not have any ties or obligations to either group. Our obligation is to the State of Virginia and Virginia College. As such, we must direct our President, Dr. Tucker, to carry out his responsibilities totally.

Let it be known that this board has placed its full confidence in our President and the Dean of the College. This Board will not abdicate its obligation to any group.

There does seem to be a communication gap. We have the responsibility to close the gap. Let's do it!

Our next meeting is planned for January 28. I hope each of you will be present.

Best wishes.

APPENDIX "4"

ary 11, 1970

alker H. Quarles, Jr.
'resident
ia State College
burg, Virginia 23803

Dr. Quarles:

am sure you, as well as I, deeply regret Dr. Tucker's decision
ign at this time. I have just finished talking with Dr. McTarn-
by telephone with a direct request from the Governor re-
ng Dr. Tucker to reconsider. We will wait for developments.
All members of the Board (I feel) have received letters re-
ng each to resign. I have this day sent each a letter asking
not to do so during this crisis. I certainly hope all will remain.
Dr. Quarles, we thrust upon you a real burden once before
now appears, we may desire to ask you to take over again.
ing you as I do, the kind of job you can do, I only ask at this
f you will be thinking about it, working very closely with
ucker on some areas you may not know of, so that we may be
ly decent shape would be so helpful to this Board and me.
With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Elgin Lowe
Rector

APPENDIX "5"

le Street
Virginia 23434
y 17, 1970

All Board Members

Elgin Lowe

Resignation of Dr. Tucker

now faced with the task of making a decision on the resignation of James F. Tucker as President of Virginia State College. It is our obligation to think through the whole matter very carefully before any action is taken. Here again we are obligated to Virginia State College and the Commonwealth of Virginia to render a decision in the best interest of each. The decision we reach will no doubt have far-reaching implications. Naturally, we must also consider Dr. Tucker's personal feelings, the welfare of his familyfor they have invested much.

Dr. Tucker is aware of the earnest and intelligent leadership under Dr. Tucker during his 19 months here. The judgement used in dealing with budgeted items, the excellent presentation before the Budget Committee, the seeking to strengthening of the college academically, other areas of progress all attest to the fact he (in his first educational administrative capacity) has done a good job. We are proud of him and the job he has done.

It is important people, Board members, Senators, Alumni, the SGA have articulated a desire for us to seek from Dr. Tucker a reconsideration of his resignation, or, extend its effective date to June 30, 1970. If this is not possible, that we ask him to remain long enough for us to make a smooth transition. Thirty days (March 1) is rather quick for such a move.

Further serious thinking is desired. Please be ready to give your attention to this matter at the meeting. May I urge you to try to be present at the meeting. The notice is probably in the mail now.

Building and Grounds Committee should be ready to report at the next regular meeting as well as the Committee on Mission and

APPENDIX “6”

Virginia State College
Petersburg, Virginia

1970

Response to Governor Holton's Request for a Statement from the Administration Regarding the Status of the School of Agriculture

It is the strong desire of students, faculty, administration and alumni that agriculture be retained at Virginia State College as a viable part of the system of higher education in Virginia.

Through a reorganization and redirection of the program in agriculture the feasibility of the continuance and expansion of agriculture at the College would be assured.

The program of agriculture reaches beyond agriculture per se to the other Schools of the College to such an extent that the enrolled majors in agriculture do not reflect the full impact of the program of agriculture upon the College and community.

The findings of the Governor's Committee on The Industry of Agriculture revealed that the population of the state is more densely located on the east coast where the School of Agriculture is located. The retention and the development of a program in Petersburg is vital to the agricultural interests of the area.

It is expected that the State's plan for integration in higher education to be submitted to HEW will contain provisions for markedly improving the student enrollment not only in the School of Agriculture but other schools as well.

A realistic appraisal of the situation implies that educational policies and programs that would channel numbers of white students to VSC would be necessary to substantially improve the enrollment in the School of Agriculture.

Further, the continuance of the School of Agriculture would require that adequate budgetary provision be made for its maintenance and operation as well as for its growth and development.

APPENDIX "7"

lease
State College
rg, Virginia

7 24, 1971

f the Dean of the College

**Announcement of Resignation of Dr. Elwood B. Boone as
Dean of the College**

roughout my professional life, I have considered it to be axio-
hat the chief administrative officer of an institution of higher
on should have the privilege to choose his key administrative
el.

en the organization which he joins has been and continues to
r great stress from both internal and external pressures, the
; should be assume the character of a right.

resident W. P. Russell, since his assumption of the leadership of
State College in mid-November, has taken on the challenging
structuring a climate at the College in which the administration,
staff, and students can breathe the quality of air necessary
efficient delivery of quality education.

le President's publicly-announced mission "not to wreck.....
ectify" the College is a challenging mission and is worthy of
port of all persons interested in what is best for Virginia State

is my intention to support that mission, in the best way I
namely, by resigning the position, Dean of the College.

the interest of what is best for Virginia State College, I urge
ents of the Virginia State College community--students, fac-
aff, administrative officers, and alumni--to join ranks and to
: fully and in good faith, the leadership of President Wendell
ell.

The End

APPENDIX "8"

Board of Visitors

Members

	Terms
John D. Anderson, Director Brown & Williamson Tobacco Company Richmond, Virginia	1 (4 years)
Carter Myers, Jr., President Richmond Motor Company Richmond, Virginia	2 (8 years)
Robert T. Bradshaw, President Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company Richmond, Virginia	2 (1-4 years & 1-2 years)
Robert W. Farley, Jr., President Richmond Engineering Company Richmond, Virginia	2 (1-4 years & 1-2 years)
Edward A. Wayne, President Federal Reserve Bank Richmond, Virginia	2 (4 years & 1 1/2 years)
Dr. Waldo Scott, Physician-Surgeon Worcester News, Virginia	2 (1-4 years & 1-2 years)
Dr. Clayton A. Robbins, Physician Newport News, Virginia	2 (1-4 years & 1-2 years)
Dr. Gladys V.V. Morton, Former Member of the State Board of Education Richmond Court House, Virginia	2 (8 years)
Dr. Dorothy J. Harris, Principal West End High School Richmond, Virginia	2 (1-4 years & 1-2 years)
Robert Darden, President Colonial Chevrolet Motor Company Norfolk, Virginia	2 (1-4 years & 1-2 years)
John Lowe, Principal George Tyler High School-Windsor Norfolk, Virginia	2 (8 years)

Board Members

(by my Tenure)

Shelby Guss

Virginia Education Association

Howling Green, Virginia

Ervin A. McKenney (Retired Teacher)

Mathews, Virginia

John S. Martin, Vice-President

Federal Reserve Bank

Richmond, Virginia

Honorable John R. Snoddy, Jr.

Attorney

Blwyn, Virginia

James Nathaniel Fleming

Real Estate Broker

Charlottesville, Virginia

Dr. William H. Myers, Dentist

Colonial Heights, Virginia

Dr. James Franklin Nicholas

Retired Professor VSC

Richmond, Virginia

Frank W. Render, III

Deputy Assistant Secretary

for Civil Rights

Washington, D.C.

Norman Sisisky, President

Pepsi Cola Bottling Company

Richmond, Virginia

APPENDIX "9"

States District Court
District of Virginia
and Division

A. Norris, an infant who sues
nville M. Norris, her father
xt friend, et al.,

Plaintiffs, Civil Action

-v-

No. 365-70-R

ouncil of Higher Education
ginia, et al.,

Defendants.

Order

or reasons stated in the opinion of the court,

is Adjudged and Ordered:

. The motion to dissolve the three-judge court is denied;

. The appropriation Act of 1970, ch. 461, Item 600, p. 754
(Acts of Assembly 1970) violates the 14th Amendment of
the United States Constitution insofar as it provides for the
escalation of Richard Bland College to third and fourth year
status;

. The Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary and
the President of Richard Bland College, their officers, agents,
and employees, and those persons in active concert or partic-
ipation with them who receive actual notice of this order
by personal service or otherwise are enjoined from escalating
Richard Bland College to the status of a four year under-
graduate degree-granting institution;

. Other relief sought by the plaintiffs is denied without
prejudice;

The Governor of Virginia and the State Council of Higher
Education for Virginia are dismissed as parties defendant;

The plaintiffs shall recover their costs from the remaining
defendants other than the Board of Visitors of Virginia State
College.

et the Clerk mail copies of this order and the opinions to
of record.

United States Circuit Judge

United States District Judge

for reason stated in my separate opinion, I concur in Para-
1, 4, and 5; I dissent from Paragraphs 2, 3, and 6.

Chief Judge
United States District Court

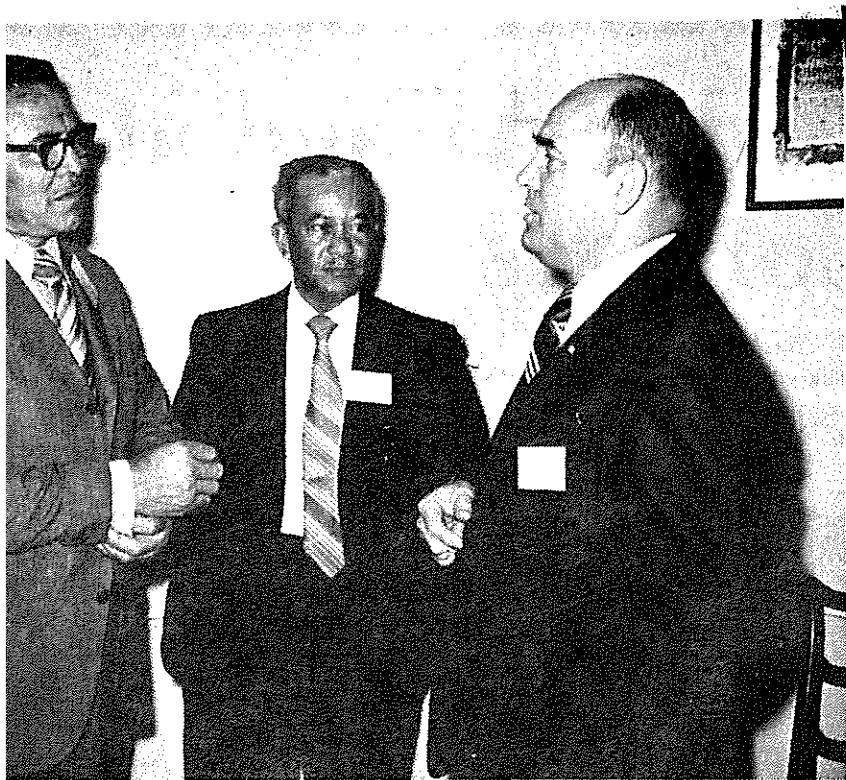
r H. Quarles, Jr.,



-a Tribute







VSC Alumni Meeting

center, rector of the board of visitors at Virginia State College, David E. representative from the third Congressional District, and Henry Brooks, a VSC ; some of the challenges and opportunities for students attending VSC. The ice at a luncheon sponsored by the college president in the Capitol Building . C. Lowe is principal of Windsor Elementary School but assumes the position oker T. Washington Elementary School at the beginning of the 1971-72 school

and Doubts HEW ler Aimed at Black leges

Jox
ch
fer
arren W.
hite Vir-

And he has serious doubts if it will.

"My strong feeling is that it cannot be carried out by the present educational and political leadership in Virginia because I see no sign that their thinking is geared to the sort of objective appraisal of programs, facilities and personnel that would be required to make integration (of the colleges) a two-way street."

Predictably, disclosure last week that the U.S. Office of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) has given Virginia four months to plan a racially unified system of higher education has brought confusion, dismay, and expressions of points of view divided by the racial barrier.

MANY WHITES were bewildered. What did the "feds" want this time? How can an order like that be carried out?

Ways to answer these questions may be found in a little book, "The Negro and Higher Education in the South," published two years back by the Southern Regional Education Board. The federal desegregation directive suggests exactly that. The book lends Dr. Brandt support — seeing the black colleges playing an important role in Virginia and the rest of the South for some time to come.

Admitting dismay and confusion, too at the new HEW move were Negroes like Dr. William P. Robinson, a Norfolk State College professor, a Negro who will sit in the House of Delegates for Norfolk when the General Assembly convenes at noon on Jan. 14.

Most of all, he said, he feared "obliteration" of traditionally black schools like his own Norfolk State and Dr. Toppin's Virginia State at Petersburg.

DR. BRANDT says he doesn't read the order that way. Like other college presidents, he got a copy of the now well-publicized letter to Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr. from Leon E. Panetta, director of HEW's Office of Civil Rights. It asks Virginia to come up with a "final" college mix plan, probably by *m i d s u m m e r*. It is a "request" — but backed by the power to cut off millions of dollars of federal money going to the colleges, and to file federal suits to force "compliance."

Nevertheless, says Dr. Brandt, "I don't think it is an order. It doesn't say we must wipe out the black colleges.

Besides, they've got no legal basis for saying that ... Basically, isn't this just an encouragement to do a better job?

"I think that HEW begins to recognize that the black universities will continue to play a significant role. We



Brandt
important
Univer-
a federal
ite state-
is the be-
for the
ppin, his-
of them,
a black-
rns that
two-way
"

antly Cath-
rn, Negro
think we
e."

Brandt's
,"I think
to take a
students
ps an in-
ross-fertili-
change of

ow has a
4 per cent
out 3 per
ny as we

spoke of
hite state
ng four or
er educa-
an enroll-
roximately

VCU's mix
an at any
te, higher
e nation,

e road, he
day when
tudent ex-
inia Union
a routine

v is rather
Like Dr.
s a real
black col-

attitudes
on a one-
nd he says
d out via a

s the deci-
proval last
Council of
to close
ite's agri-
and trans-
faculty to
echnic In-
griculture

"That is not a merger, as they called it, but a surrender" by Virginia State's board of visitors (which, along with VPI's Board, agreed to the consolidation).

Why not transfer some VPI students to Petersburg, thereby making Virginia State's agriculture program large enough to turn it into an economical operation? He further argues this would make room at VPI to admit "some of the hundreds" turned away there each year because of lack of facilities.

White attitudes ruled out such a "two-way solution," even when whites acknowledge "that there are not enough colleges in America to take care of all the young people who want to and should go to college.

"THIS," DR. TOPPIN continues, "is one reason why many blacks have soured on the whole idea of integration — because the prevailing assumption of white Americans is that black colleges must be inferior . . . There are things we can teach whites as well as things whites can teach us.

"Blacks are very proud of their institutions and their heritage and object to having their schools renamed, downgraded and closed without regard to whether programs and personnel of their black institutions are comparable to those of the white institutions being integrated."

Given this state of affairs, he makes two suggestions.

One, to help draft the plan HEW asks, Dr. Toppin thinks "outside experts should be called in to help us arrive at

decisions free from the subjective bias of white-supremacist thinking."

Two, "I would hope that the Virginia State Faculty Senate," as well as comparable bodies at other colleges, "will draft guidelines to help in the shaping of Virginia's plan for higher education." Dr. Toppin said he intends to do all he can to see that this happens.



Dr. Edgar A. Topping
Has Serious Doubts

is Also Seen College Change

SC Rector's Year's 'Not Easy'

WTING
Writer

His eight governing years, al and ex- would have ighest of ave.

of Suffolk

pointment, r of the

Board of week, suc- s F. Ni-

d dapper ative was e board in gh the ef- Holland of

(Virginia mater, I happy to e n t e d . received a ertis Har- member of

ed fromachelor of aster's de- ducation. change in ck college en he was ond and attending e.

principal Washing-ool, Mr. ver have (SC) look-

The "physical changes" have been great ones, he remarked. He said he could remember two approaches to the college, separated by a few acres and a semi-circle driveway.

More recently, and during his term on the school's trustee board, he remembers vividly the "student flare-up" in the mid-1960s and the heavy demands that were suddenly thrown on the college's administration and the Board of Visitors.

"As I recall, we came up here (Va. State) to a special meeting one night to hear Edward Wayne (former rector who was then president of the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond) speak. When we got here we found that there was a flare-up between the student body and the administration . . ." he recalled. That was in 1966.

Mr. Lowe said the students were sitting in the auditorium in Virginia Hall (the administration building) and "they began to question Mr. Wayne after his presentation as to why he was a member of the Board of Visitors."

The Tidewater educator said he "personally" felt Mr. Wayne's answer made the situation somewhat worse when he replied he was "a former dropout." Mr. Wayne is a white man.

" . . . I remember the remark very distinctly that was made by one of the students there," he continued.

He said the student told the man he had no business being rector of the Virginia State College Board of Visitors if he was a dropout.

Mr. Lowe said some of the student dissension was attributed to the fact that there were white members of the board.

"We met with a group of approximately 25-30 students immediately following that meeting in the conference room in Virginia Hall . . . and stayed there until after midnight that night," he explained.

He said the students were mainly interested in why they could not have a voice in the administration of the college.

Mr. Wayne, according to Mr. Lowe, left his position immediately after the confrontation and accepted a position with the Board of Visitors at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

A black man, Dr. Booker T. Bradshaw of Richmond, assumed the post and completed Mr. Wayne's term as rector, explained Mr. Lowe.

The "main disruption period," as Mr. Lowe referred to it, was just getting under way when he was elected by the board to serve as rector.

Virginia State College—in the short space of two years—lost its president of 18 years, Dr. Robert P. Daniel who died in January, 1968, and experienced the resignation of his successor, Dr. James F. Tucker, who left under faculty-student pressure in March, 1970.

Between administrations, Dr. Walker H. Quarles served as acting president. He is now a vice president for the administration.

A slightly built man, Mr. Lowe carried his Suffolk school through the misery of school consolidation and saw it ordered to convert from a top flight "combined" school housing grades 1-12 to an elementary school with half as many students.

ool had to go
ccess of being
h the strong
school superin-
able to build it
school both
nd scholastical-

poor beginning
by 1969 we were
e with all the
schools in the
" he reflected.
s called Windsor
later to become
chool, he pointed

rom essentially
eak, to a school
l favorably with
ring that period
ormer chairman
t Interscholastic
ion said.

student body in-
re third of them
taining an even
black faculty.
his period, Mr.
to take over the
Booker T. Wash-
gh School.

he faced daily
school system
he forced himself
e when he con-
nting tensions on
te College cam-

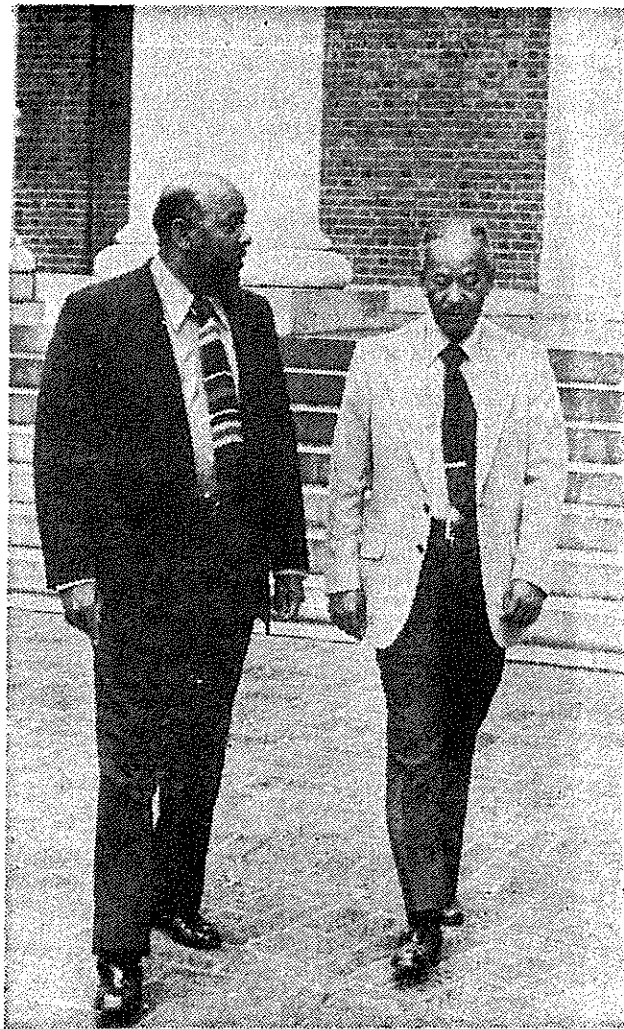
n months of 1970
y demonstrations
the Petersburg

trouble stemmed
nced merger of
griculture at VSC
ure Department
echnic Institute
University at

with a proposal
hard Bland Col-
d to a four-year,
ing institution,
already existing

move the college
e dean and even
itors were under
pus.

e spring and In-
f 1970, the ten-
The 1970



*Dr. Russell (l.) Talks With Lowe Following
Board Of Visitors Meeting*

7 voted to re-
ure School at
hard Bland is-
the Supreme

5-acre campus,
id a feeling of
ess as the col-
its "Centennial
e, looking to its
n the distant

utes the "road
vement to Dr.
l, who took the
resident in the
tember, 1970.

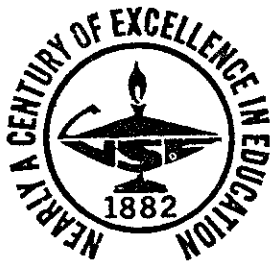
Mr. Lowe said
e a very good
who can com-
e students and

oad educational
experience in
and race rela-
t the school to
see the light

the new presi-
and forward-
have laid out
c for the col-
with the com-

is part and "a
of open-
een the races"
lown the invis-
em to separate
y black institu-
arby communi-
ided.

: relations has
area," he con-
g else, it could
undergraduate
w has a few



MORE THAN 1,500 Vir-
ginia State students turned
out Thursday to protest the
agriculture merger decision.
Dr. Toppin, declining to
speak for them, said he
thinks they fear that this is
the shape of college desegre-
gation things to come —
more of their programs being
closed down and taken away
to desegregate white in-
stitutions, and with no white
traffic on the street coming
their way.

Again yesterday, some 1,-
400 students and faculty
members met partly to pro-
test the merger. Dissidents
in the student body and fac-
ulty wound up issuing a list
of demands, including one
that Richard Bland College,
the two-year branch of The
College of William and Mary,
be merged into Virginia
State as part of a desegre-
gation effort.

When Virginia drafts the
"requested" plan, it might do
well to consult the Southern
Regional Education Board, a
civil rights oriented body set
up by Southern and Border
state governors, advised Pen-
etta.

"The Negro and Higher
Education in the South," pull-
ing together SREB thoughts
in this area, says that the
black colleges in the future
are not to be considered ". . .
separate, equal and duplicat-
ing, but complementary to the
roles played by other types of
institutions" in the total high-
er education picture.



Trojan of Distinction

The Certificate of Merit, awarded to **Elgin Madison Lowe, Sr.**, at the Virginia State College graduation

exercises on May 6, was intended to honor a great deal more than the 39 years of service the educator has given to Virginia school children.

The certificate also recognized the many years of dedicated and often unheralded service that Lowe has given to his alma mater, from which he received both his bachelor's and master's degrees.

His untiring efforts on behalf of VSC and a myriad of its students over the years resulted in his appointment as a member of the college's Board of Visitors in 1964 and election as Rector of the board in 1969, a post he held until retirement from the board last September.

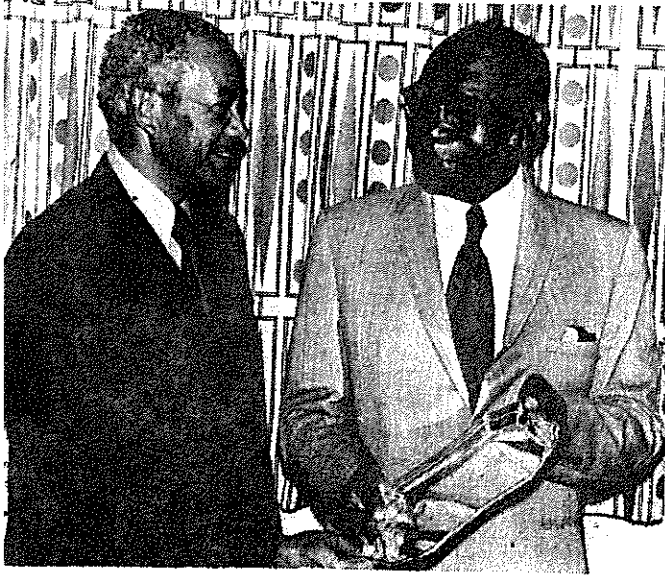
He was particularly cited for his contributions as Rector of the Board of Visitors, "his term of office was marked by the separating of the Norfolk Division from the college so that it could become Norfolk State College, guiding the college after the death of President Daniel through two interim administrations, and a short presidency, until the appointment of the incumbent. All through the many crises the college endured during his tenure as Rector, he presided with a calm dignity that kept the college the viable institution it is today."

Lowe began his career as an educator in 1934 when he was appointed principal of the Jefferson

School in Sussex County, Virginia. He has since been principal of the Georgie Tyler Elementary School and the Georgie Tyler High School at Windsor, Virginia; and principal of the Windsor Elementary School and the Booker T. Washington High School in Suffolk.

The Suffolk, Virginia, School Board recently appointed him to be high school supervisor and director of personnel, making him the highest ranking Black in the history of the Suffolk public school system.

Lowe, a native of the Suffolk area, is listed in "Who's Who in the South and Southwest", "Who's Who in American Education" and in the Dictionary of International Biography.



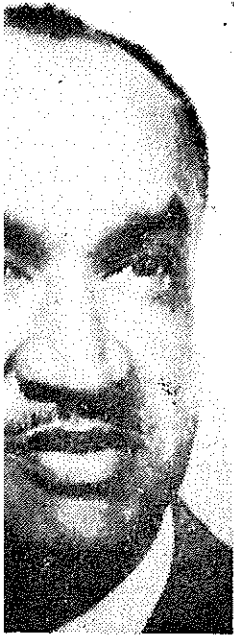
Lowe's VSC Service Honored

Booker T. Washington principal Elgin M. Lowe (left), a member of the Virginia State College Board of Visitors for the last eight years, receives an engraved silver tray in appreciation of his years of service from VSC Vice-Rector Dr. James Franklin Nicholas, of Ettrick. Lowe has been a member of the VSC Board of Visitors for the past three years. (BSC Photo: Don Blackwell).



RSBURG, VA. - - Virginia Governor Linwood Holton, Mrs. Harry A. Johnson, and Mrs. Hermanze Faunteroy (right to left) dine at the home of VSC andell P. Russell after recent Commencement Exercises.

Negro Institutions Have Role: Robinson



Robinson

BY BOLINAGA

Staff Writer

olk Negro college pro-
fessors of Delegates be-
lieve that institutions will be needed
in the future.

Robinson, a political sci-
entist at Norfolk State College and
a candidate to be elected to the
House since Reconstruction
such institutions are
needed as a symbol
of equality.

Department of Health, Edu-
cation and Welfare indicated its intent
to merge the black schools of
the state and noted that past de-
partmentary and secondary
schools about the dissolution of
the IEW has requested a
revision of Virginia's in-
stitutional plan.)

is a two-way street, he
said, having white institu-
tions and the Negro ones.
He received numerous let-
ters from faculty at Virginia
Polytechnic, who fear the

merger of its agricultural programs with
those of Virginia Polytechnic Institute's is
but the first step on a road that will lead to
dissolution of their institution.

About 2,200 VSC students demonstrated
their protest in Richmond Thursday. Robin-
son said the students are not opposed to de-
segregation, but opposed to the elimination
of their college.

"They feel it should be a two-way process
and raised the question as to why the black
institution must always give way to the
dominant institution, which is the white,"
he said. "The test should be whether or not
quality education is being offered. The
merging could be in either direction but
should not necessarily follow the pattern of
eliminating the black institution."

He noted that the problem is getting
whites to attend a predomi-
nantly Negro in-
stitution, but said he does not regard it as
insurmountable.

The Petersburg students want predomi-
nantly white Richard Bland, a two-year
branch of William and Mary, with about 600
students, merged with predominantly Negro
VSC, which has about 2,590 students.

Dr. Robinson said there is no "racism in

e, and that Negro students are
udy and work with white stu-
ds that most students in pre-
legro colleges are there "be-
s of the system have created
ircumstance." He believes that
ociety where feelings of rejec-
egationist patterns have been
would make students want to
eely into new, situations.

ink it's a matter of rejecting
work and learn with whites,
the idea that this must always
action of the absorption by the
said.

institution he said has long
ray of hope for many young-
ent, who otherwise would nev-
idered pursuing a higher edu-

cation and making a contribution to soci-
ty."

Eliminating Negro institutions might
eliminate the chance of higher education for
many young Negroes, he believes.

Black institutions, though starved for re-
sources, have nonetheless been "the only
vehicles for the production of responsible
black citizens" and leaders, he said. "If
they could do this in a starved condition, it
would indicate great potential."

He believes that cooperation in the ex-
change of faculty, development of seminar
groups, and the free movement of students
between institutions might be a preliminary
way of approaching the integration of white
and Negro schools.

Norfolk State and predominantly white
Old Dominion University have taken preli-
minary steps in these directions.

The Virginian-Pilot

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100