

A GREAT UNIVERSITY FOR GREATER INDIANAPOLIS

The great cities of the world have many common features which stimulate greater vitality in the central city and a greater variety of experience for every citizen in surrounding regions. A key factor in each great city is the strength of a distinguished city university.

For many years, many voices have called for a great State University to be established in Indianapolis. Perhaps the enthusiasm of some citizens for one cause or another has confused the objective and led outside observers to question whether we really cared about the foundation of a university.

A great number of citizens do care, and they have communicated their concern to Indiana legislators soon to be assembled. I have been asked to state the position of the City of Indianapolis on the university question, and I have chosen to do so now in order that the entire issue may be discussed widely in a large forum of public opinion and that Indianapolis might then move forward into the great possibilities which a new university will offer.

State Senator Lawrence Borst, and State Representatives Robert Jones, Henry Lamkin, and John Mutz, all veterans of the 1967 General Assembly have conducted a careful study of proposed university planning for Indianapolis. They have been assisted substantially in their research efforts by Beurt Servaas, President of the Marion

County Council; Thomas Hasbrook, President of the Common Council of Indianapolis; John Burkhart, President of the Metropolitan Capital Improvements Board; and Charles Whistler, Chairman of the Metropolitan Planning Commission. They have reached a number of unanimous conclusions and have informed trustees and administrative leaders of the major state universities that a bill will be introduced into the Indiana General Assembly of 1969 to provide for the creation of a State University to be independent of all other state universities and to be located in Indianapolis. I will support that legislation because it is central to the fulfillment of our hopes to gain necessary strength to support not only the economic and cultural aspirations of Metropolitan Indianapolis, but a large portion of central Indiana.

Presently, we are working to revise our political structure in Marion County in order to make possible a greater degree of responsible home rule and a greater degree of accountability by elected officials to the voters. One of the most important reasons for unifying our governmental agencies is the assistance which this would give to new businesses who wish to invest in our area and to provide additional jobs and the general wealth of increased purchasing power.

For many years, our great Indianapolis industries, including Eli Lilly and Company, Allison Division of General Motors, RCA,

Western Electric, Link Belt, Union Carbide, Dow Chemical and others have pointed to the imperative need for university facilities to provide advanced technological work for valuable employees.

We know that updating of knowledge is imperative in the marketing of new products and in trying to obtain superior employees. Yet Indianapolis is scarcely better off in this respect now than 20 years ago. Let me share with you the awesome responsibility which the leadership of this community has if large numbers of us are to remain prosperous.

Due to logical economic reasons of transportation facilities, banking and insurance institutions, adequate power and water supplies, and a high degree of social and political stability, Indianapolis and surrounding counties are in an excellent position to receive major investments and expansions of existing company operations. All of this growth in jobs is imperative if we are to keep pace with the influx of new citizens coming to us at a probable rate of 10,000 to 15,000 net increase each year. Our unemployment rate in the seven-county metropolitan area is 1.9% now because we have added 10,500 new jobs in the last year alone and employed on a net basis all the newcomers and a large number of citizens unemployed for some time prior to 1968.

The hard fact we have not faced is that we risk the loss of this growth and the loss of what we have to the degree that we delay establishment of the university facilities needed here and now by industries and employees who like us but will choose other locations to be in close proximity to great centers of learning.

Every other major city in America has a State supported university except Indianapolis. Our situation is precarious and it is time that each citizen knew the facts and the current peril of our failure to make known our enthusiasm for a university.

We have all talked frequently and often rather glibly about "our technological age." We have continued to pay lip service to the value of research, but the truth is all too apparent that we in Indianapolis have not achieved the most obvious goal which would maintain our competitive position among the major metropolitan areas of America, namely, we have not provided university facilities for technological and scientific growth and research. Thousands of jobs which we enjoy tonight and thousands more which we hope to enjoy in the future are in jeopardy until we realize the basic facts of modern industrial growth and the relationship of that growth to a university.

Perhaps our talented scientists and research men should be willing to travel to Bloomington or West Lafayette to obtain necessary

courses, but this has not been appealing to those who choose instead simply to settle in other cities which have first-rate university facilities for scientific and technical research.

Secondly, the government of the State of Indiana and the City of Indianapolis is in need of the personnel, the discussion forums, and the many other contributions which a great university can make to good government. Americans are concerned about the so-called "crises of the cities" and many cities bank heavily upon university personnel for research, consultation, graduate and undergraduate intern programs to interest able students in governmental careers, computer programming, training of municipal employees, and a host of other services.

Such governmental-university relationships are at a minimum in Indianapolis and there is no good reason for this condition to continue unless we are simply too passive to move off dead-center.

A third consideration is the desirability of attending a university in Indianapolis for many students who live in this area and wish to live at home or to enjoy employment during their academic endeavors. Many of these students are now attending extensions of Indiana University and Purdue University which are scattered at various sites in our city. At one time, it was suggested

that all of these classes would be united in the University Quarter area on the near Westside of Indianapolis under a joint Indiana University-Purdue University banner. These plans, for reasons not altogether clear, appear to be unraveling.

I have been informed by various Indiana legislators that Purdue has proceeded to embrace the current Burger-Chef headquarters on East 38th Street as a logical extension. Precisely why students housed in any of the extensions would wish to be identified as Indiana-Purdue students as opposed to the University of Indianapolis is not clear at all. Talks with many students have convinced me that they see an independent identity as highly preferable.

What is clear is that the locus of authority at Indiana University is President Joseph Sutton now located at Bloomington. President Frederick Hovde and his staff hold sway in West Lafayette. The nature of university politics might well persuade many talented faculty members and administrative staff to stay as close to Bloomington and West Lafayette as possible and such would be reasonable conduct. The net result for Indianapolis, has been, and in my judgment, will continue to be sorely perplexing.

The fact that we have fallen between the cracks of university power structures is not only perplexing but nearly disastrous in view of the current status of hundreds of acres in near downtown Indianapolis.

Perhaps there was a time in which the city government was preoccupied by other matters and did not question seriously the effects on our tax base of losing several hundred homes, small businesses, or alternative developments on potentially valuable real estate. In truth, many might have applauded quietly the destruction of many old dwellings and the elimination of evidence of great poverty in that community.

In fairness, Indiana University worked carefully in the purchase of property and with very considerable sensitivity to human difficulty. Unfortunately, the poor were moved elsewhere in our city and our financial ability to offer service to them or others has not been enhanced.

Throughout this purchase and removal process and subsequent events, it is obvious that very close educational and governmental liaison is imperative and such has not occurred. Dr. Sutton and Dr. Hovde are brilliant administrators, but neither resides in Indianapolis nor has his offices and staff in this city. As a very practical matter, we need to have a university President of comparable stature here and now to preside over a growing list of extremely complex development problems which involve not only academic affairs but critical relationships with local government, citizen groups, Metropolitan Indianapolis commerce, industry, professional groups, and philanthropists. Bloomington and West

Lafayette are not only some distance but I suspect that the Indianapolis outposts are frequently viewed as subsidiary plants by educational management at Indiana and Purdue Universities.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention that former Indiana University President Elvis Stahr visited with me in April and opened an excellent discussion of possible reorganization of Indiana University and the ramifications for a nearly autonomous university here in Indianapolis. I believe that Dr. Stahr might have been indicating that in the educational framework of Indiana, our Indianapolis University might have the same relationship to Indiana University which UCLA in California has to the University of California at Berkeley with the headquarters of the entire Indiana organization at an off campus location in Indianapolis. In any event, Dr. Stahr's resignation and perhaps other intervening events have not led to further exploration of that idea.

In short, I have come to wonder why a university located in Bloomington or one located in West Lafayette must attempt to manage facilities all over Indianapolis and the State of Indiana when the funds allocated for university use in Indianapolis by the Legislature could be most simply and directly administered here at the University of Indianapolis under the guidance of a Board of Trustees composed of local citizens who have an excellent idea of our needs and aspirations.

Indiana and Purdue officials have sometimes subordinated the idea of independence by mention that loss of academic accreditation would follow any bid for freedom. Furthermore, they contend that complicated trusts tie up much existing locally owned property and that the Legislature has no legitimate right to tamper with these arrangements.

Without belaboring detail, let me say simply that I am persuaded by the research of some interested Indiana legislators that neither the accreditation argument nor the trust argument will last beyond huff and bluff stage of discussion. Universities are not private businesses. Taxpayers own the assets we are discussing. Nor is it obvious, granted that great talent is always in short supply, that recruitment of faculty is impossible unless one assumes that living in Bloomington and West Lafayette is infinitely preferable.

I suspect that many talented scholars will want to live in a city which is destined to become the most dynamic and rapidly growing city in the Midwest and is eager to involve the university in every aspect of city politics, economics and cultural development.

In fact, enrollment projections for the new State University of Indianapolis indicate the probability of 20,000 students in the next decade and a 35,000 student population in 25 years. A university of this size and scope should be organized properly from the beginning

with a Board of Trustees responsible to a Board of Regents of Indiana having overall control of all State universities.

Hopefully, the Board of Regents can sort out the confusing claims and aspirations of not only Indiana and Purdue University but also proposals for extensions by Ball State University and Indiana State University to serve Indianapolis and allocate to the University of Indianapolis a fair share of higher educational appropriations approved by the 1969 General Assembly.

These funds are not unlimited and Governor-elect Edgar Whitcomb has called for careful examination of priorities in the expenditure of public educational funds.

I agree with Governor-elect Whitcomb that university expansion in Indianapolis or elsewhere should be financed to the greatest degree possible by those who will benefit most directly from university facilities.

Some will argue with considerable persuasion that society, as a whole, is the major beneficiary of university trained individuals and therefore that society should bear most, if not all, of the cost of State universities. In fact, all of us do benefit from the reservoir of skills which a highly educated society makes available, but I would argue that the major beneficiaries of university degrees are those

who obtain them and pursue relatively lucrative careers with lifetime incomes sharply higher than most nonuniversity citizens. Many students have forgotten or perhaps have never known how expensive a university education is to the general taxpayer of Indiana.

I believe that we must move rapidly to provide an opportunity in Indianapolis for each student to enjoy an opportunity to attend a university but that the majority of expenses for that experience must be paid by the student. This means that State guaranteed student loan programs should be made adequate to provide loans for each student or family willing to attempt university life on the assumption that this will prove to be a valuable investment of time and money in terms of general life satisfaction and monetary income in the future.

The Board of Regents should create equivalent standards for university finance at every other state university.

The subject is laden with emotion, but I would suggest that taxpayers have contributed to many of the attitudes they soundly condemn on university campuses. An enormous amount of attention is devoted to student conduct in writing newspaper editorials, visiting residence halls, growing beards, failing to change clothing, protesting

poor teaching, advocating substantial changes in curriculum, and generally demanding the right to be treated as adult citizens. We have not asked students to borrow money against future income and thus asked students to take an immediately serious viewpoint on success, failure, and personal conduct on a university campus. Rather, we have chosen to act as parents for all youth, demanding a right to supervise students because we are paying for their education. Correspondingly, perceptive students are surely aware that one cannot have the best of all worlds and that he who pays the piper calls the tune.

We should no longer maintain the hypocrisy of calling for mature young men and women and then carefully subverting these virtues of independence and maturation through our attitudes toward university finance.

Furthermore, in my judgment, we can no longer afford to pay such a disproportionate share of public educational funds to state universities. The serious plight of our elementary and secondary schools is all too obvious to every observer of education in Indiana.

The tough questions we must ask concern our responsibility to make certain that every child reaches adolescence with ability

to read and a set of skills which affords at least a fair chance to meet the competitive struggle of the marketplace and the social complexities of life in general.

Indiana state support of local school corporations has declined to such an extent that large local property tax increases annually have become an inevitability if our local school boards are to hold their own.

These large school property tax increases are squeezing the life out of incentives to build new plants or to improve property of any sort in Indianapolis. And yet, the Indianapolis School Board is swamped with insoluble economic dilemmas in trying to cut class sizes; give thousands of children a fighting chance to learn to read, or to make available vital studies in vocational education for many more youth who require these skills than the number who will choose a university course.

Governor-elect Whitcomb has pledged to reach 50% State support of local school systems in the next four years. This is an extremely vital pledge, in terms not only of the adequacy of local public education, but also in terms of preparing a better tax base to pay for it.

In summary, I advocate the following important steps:

- 1) The General Assembly should establish a Board of Regents to supervise all State universities.

- 2) The Board of Regents should deed all State university properties in Indianapolis to a State University of Indianapolis and allocate a fair share of operating funds to a Board of Trustees nominated to manage the Indianapolis university.
- 3) The public educational funds of Indiana should be redirected to strengthen the unhappy predicament of elementary and secondary schools and post high school vocational and technical training.
- 4) University students in Indiana should pay a majority of the expenses of their educational experiences with the State financing the remainder in recognition of society's general gain and with the State providing a comprehensive loan guarantee program making possible long-term repayment by students from later increasing incomes and thus provide truly the opportunity for every student to enter a university and invest in his own future.
- 5) Active participation should be encouraged by the City of Indianapolis and by business and industrial leaders to make certain that the new university is given the

support it will need to become one of the great institutions of higher learning in the United States. Such support should include sharing of governmental and academic joys and burdens, successful campaigns for private funds, and business endowment of specific activities closely associated with corporate objectives.

- 6) Careful consultation with leaders of local private educational institutions should proceed with more careful consideration that these institutions are neither jeopardized nor ignored in a general academic renaissance in the downtown area of Indianapolis.
- 7) Finally, it is important that the Board of Regents and the administrations of all state universities work closely with each other to maximize the power and importance of higher education in Indiana.

The City of Indianapolis is greatly indebted to Indiana University and Purdue University for enormous contributions of leadership and finance which have done

much to hasten the day when an independent university was feasible in Indianapolis. This city looks forward to many direct relationships with faculty and students from major state university campuses who will want to become involved in urban studies and to conduct intern programs or research here in Indianapolis.

My appeal for a University of Indianapolis is based simply on a sincere conviction that this is the best time for an important reorganization to take place and that the future growth of our commerce, our local governmental structure, and the general vitality of the heart of our city depends upon a favorable resolution of a difficult university planning problem.

In formulating such an ambitious plan, I believe that we must always remain conscious of an obligation to be reasonable and just to all parties concerned, and to propose logical ways and means of accomplishing a desirable goal. This I have attempted to do. But I have also attempted to do something else which is so

important in Indianapolis today. We must think and act as if we truly believe that Indianapolis is a great city destined for much greater years immediately ahead. A great city must have at its heart a great university. Those who love this city and prize academic excellence and opportunity should not rest until these goals are secured in Indianapolis.

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Richard G. Lugar
Mayor

December 14, 1968