

The Board of Trustees of The Arkansas State Teachers College met in the President's office Thursday, January 5, 1961, pursuant to legal call of the meeting by the Chairman. The following members were present: Dr. John W. Sneed, Jr., Chairman, Dr. Dee W. Halbrook, C. W. Harper, and J. C. Mitchell. Trustees Sam E. Adkisson, Louie H. Polk, and Mrs. Rufus W. Morgan, Jr., Secretary, were absent. Silas D. Snow, President of the College, met with the Board.

Chairman Sneed directed roll call, declared a quorum present and called the meeting into formal session.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Board were approved.

President Snow and Trustee Mitchell reviewed the campaign to date for the passage of the one cent tax on soft drinks. It was agreed that Trustee Mitchell would represent The Arkansas State Teachers College Board of Trustees on the steering committee composed of Board representatives of the state colleges and state agencies.

A motion was made by Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Halbrook and unanimously passed by the Board that the following resolution be adopted:

The governing Boards of the University of Arkansas, the State-Supported Colleges, the Arkansas State Hospital and the Arkansas Childrens Colony are deeply cognizant of their important responsibility to provide educational and health care services that are vitally essential to the people of Arkansas.

In executing this responsibility, we are committed to the concept that quality programs of service and education must be established and maintained in the face of the rapidly growing numbers of Arkansans who need and must have these programs.

Recognizing the challenge, and being keenly aware that decisions made now will determine the pace at which the State will move forward in the years ahead, the Boards of these ten institutions approve the following statement of support for a practical means of achieving basic objectives of momentous import to the future of Arkansas:

Arkansas will soon be given the opportunity to make an important investment.

A decision to make this investment will yield almost limitless returns to the people of the State. Conversely, a decision to forfeit this opportunity would mean that the State would fall behind the rest of the South and the nation in a time of crisis for the provision of basic educational and health care services.

The investment would be made through a proposed bond issue financed by a tax on soft drinks to be submitted to the 63rd General Assembly for its consideration. In the event of a favorable decision, the General Assembly would then refer the bond proposal to the voters for their approval in a special election.

The bond issue would finance the construction of urgently needed buildings for the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Polytechnic College, Arkansas State College, Arkansas A. and M. College, Southern State College, Henderson State Teachers College, Arkansas State Teachers College, Arkansas A. M. and N. College, the Arkansas State Hospital and the Arkansas Childrens Colony.

For these State institutions, the bond issue would achieve these fundamental objectives:

(1) Permit construction of buildings and facilities to correct critical deficiencies that have accumulated in previous years. Ancient buildings, some nearly a century old and many others 50 to 75 years old, are outmoded for present day needs and have deteriorated structurally to a dangerous degree. At the Arkansas State Hospital, for example, the continued occupancy of some buildings constitutes a very real threat to the lives and safety of patients.

(2) Permit construction of buildings to accommodate rapidly growing numbers of persons who need the services of these State institutions. The youth and the aged constitute today a large proportion of our population. In constantly increasing numbers, they require educational opportunities, medical care or remedial child care.

The University and colleges must have facilities to accommodate unprecedented student enrollments. Classroom, laboratory and library space already is crucially inadequate for existing enrollments, and the largest enrollment increases in history will certainly materialize in the immediate years ahead. Exhaustive studies of student enrollment trends indicate that nationwide enrollments will nearly double the present figures by 1970. This assumes special significance in Arkansas when it is noted that this year's enrollment increase in most of our institutions of higher learning is substantially above the nationwide average increase as disclosed in registration figures for the 1960-61 school year.

These increases will mount in the years ahead because Arkansans born in the high birth rate years during and immediately after World War II are now reaching college age. For example, the number of Arkansans reaching college age in 1963 will be ten per cent higher than the number in 1962. In 1964, the number will be 17 per cent higher than the 1962 level.

Further studies indicate that percentage of high school graduates entering college in Arkansas is much higher than in previous years. At the Arkansas State Hospital, facilities must be provided to make possible full utilization of modern techniques in treating the mentally ill. The urgency of the bond issue is readily apparent for the Arkansas Childrens Colony which is unable to provide care for 1,500 retarded children because there is no space to house them.

(3) Permit construction of research facilities of paramount importance to the agricultural and industrial economy of the state.

We are living in the dawn of a new scientific and technological age. Today, the world travels on research. To serve adequately the needs of the State in these times, we must have outstanding programs of research that embrace many fields. No state can move forward without the assistance of such programs. The level of such programs requires new and greatly expanded facilities.

(4) Would not only help Arkansas correct accumulated deficiencies in the quality of its service facilities, but would enable the State to catch up with the kind of services provided in the rest of the South and the nation.

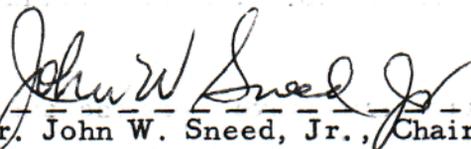
Current tax revenues by themselves would not provide sufficient funds to remedy cumulated deficiencies as quickly as they must be corrected to provide the quantity or quality of services required. A bond issue is the only means for meeting the needs. The program planned would make possible the most favorable interest rates. Large construction bond issues recently have been approved by the voters of almost every other Southern and adjoining state.

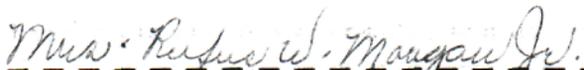
The people of Arkansas have repeatedly demonstrated their willingness to provide the facilities and services required for public schools. During the past ten years they have approved the construction of about \$100,000,000 for public schools. In the December, 1960, school election bond issues were approved in the amount of \$19,000,000. In the case of higher education, only a statewide bond issue can do the job.

The investment in the bond issue would be small in terms of the cost to each citizen of the state. It would be a wise and highly productive investment indeed in terms of what it would mean to our citizens.

We cannot deny adequate educational facilities to our youth. We cannot fail to provide the kind of medical treatment that will return many of our citizens to happy and productive lives.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.


 Dr. John W. Sneed, Jr., Chairman


 Mrs. Rufus W. Morgan, Jr., Secretary