



"Surely there is a physical limit . . . I understand in the past there has been some talk of 40,000."

Money Matters Bother Fleming

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areas of the world; they will not try to cover all parts of the world.

"Here, we have a center on the problems of the Middle East. But at Wisconsin, they'd decided they would pretty well eliminate that.

"You get quite different emphases in different universities on, let's say, the life sciences.

"The interesting thing at Michigan — I suppose, the interesting thing at all colleges today in the biological sciences area — is that many of the old disciplines are now crossing over so much that traditional departments — biology, biochemistry, genetics, zoology — there's so much crossing over of lines that traditional departments don't look much like they did.

"It's true among the psychologists, for instance. They tend these days to be split in various directions, and you may very well be breaking and forming new constellations in the future."

Q. What's the status of the Residential College that the university was working on? The last bit of information was that it was quartered in East Quadrangle.

FLEMING: "The original plan was to construct a residential college over on the North Campus.

"Neither the legislative funds nor the private funds which we had hoped to attract proved to be available.

"Therefore, we started it in East Quad. That has proven to be quite satisfactory. As a matter of fact, the students rather like the idea of being close to the main campus.

"We're making some more conversations of space this next year, and we'll go into the second year in East Quad.

"And the internal difficulty is this. It's clearly more expensive on a per student basis than the balance of the liberal arts college. And that raises the question of how much of your resources can you fairly allocate to a relatively small group of students compared to the others?

"Because, if it's going to be considerably more costly — and it is, there's no doubt about it — then is it fair to other students to allocate a disproportionate share to the Residential College?"

"It's rather interesting, you know, that we thought that would be a rather attractive concept to donors during the 55 M campaign (the 1966-68 sesquicentennial campaign of the alumni to raise \$55 million in capital funds).

"And it did not attract significant gifts. That throws us back on the Legislature, and the Legislature is very money-conscious."

Q. The University of Michigan has a national — even international — reputation as one of the stellar institutions of higher learning. Yet a number of other schools across the country, with the help of federal money, are seeking a place in the limelight.

Can the University of Michigan hold its same exalted rank in the future with stiffer competition?

FLEMING: "Well, I have no doubt it's going to remain one of the very great universities in the world.

"It is going to be difficult to protect that rank.

"It's going to be difficult for a lot of reasons — competition for the state tax dollar is getting rougher all the time; there's an ever increasing demand for higher education; some will be siphoned off by the other four-year colleges and the community colleges.

"Our great competence, increasingly, is in the upper levels. Also, our admissions standards are such that it's not every Michigan youngster that can come to the University of Michigan, on academic grounds. So the competition's going to be much rougher.

"On the other hand, I have a feeling that the people of Michigan realize that this is a very distinguished university, and they want it to remain that way.

"Now, it cannot remain that way unless they're prepared to support it.

"I think that in the showdown, they really are.

"I think it's clear also in the years ahead there's going to be increased money put into the universities. There is a great national stake in maintaining the universities. You cannot build every university in the country with the prestige of and capacity of the Harvards, the Berkeleys, the Michigans, the Wisconsins and places like that.

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