

COLLEGE HEAD DEFENDS SELF

Button Says' Hands Were Tied in Conduct of More- head School.

MOREHEAD, Ky., April 15.—The commission appointed to make a survey of Morehead State Teachers' College and Normal School "did not undertake to say what members of the faculty and what officials should be retained or dismissed," Dr. P. C. Button, ousted president of the institution, declares in a statement.

Dr. Button's resignation as president of the institution was "taken under advisement," nine other members of the faculty were dismissed and six teachers granted unsolicited leaves of absence by the board of regents of the Morehead institution at a meeting held at Lexington March 26. The motion regarding Dr. Button's resignation and the dismissal of the faculty members was made by State Senator Alle W. Young, Morehead, chairman of the board.

Although the report of the survey commission lists among the difficulties of the institution the "employment of too many teachers who have not had enough educational training," Dr. Button, in his statement, points out that "all the teachers dismissed or granted leaves of absence have either degrees or diplomas in special departments such as music and expression."

"These facts," according to Dr. Button, "indicate that the regents have not been acting in harmony with the recommendations of the survey commission."

Other criticisms of the institution, as set out in the survey commission's report, are "a loose organization, absence of understanding of duties," and "the fact that the purpose of the school has not been worked out."

These criticisms are not attacked by Dr. Button in his statement other than that he indicates that his "hands were tied" and that "the dominant personality of the board of regents" would not concede to him the freedom of action necessary to the management of the school.

The entire membership of the board of regents, according to the president, speaks "as the voice of one man."

Dr. Button declares in his statement that the survey of the Morehead school was made at his instance, in order to obtain expert advice on the organization of the institution preliminary to the meeting of the Southern Association at Lexington next December, as Morehead Teachers' College then will come up for full membership in the association.

The commission made a survey of the institution, Dr. Button stated, and made a "very excellent report," which, he declares, "insofar as it refers to the presidency of the institution, is predicated on the supposition that the board should grant the president all the power and authority necessary, in order to avoid looseness of organization on account of which faculty members and other employees of the institution were allowed direct and confidential communication with members of the board."

The following quotation from the commission's report is then placed in his statement by Dr. Button:

If members of the staff go to the board, the president is left without knowledge of the situation and his authority is undermined and usefulness ended. This is a tragedy, and one too frequent in American education.

Dr. Button concludes his statement with this paragraph:

I have also been asked why I stayed in the institution with my hands tied. I feel that I have made a great mistake in so doing, but are not the hands of the great electorate of the State as completely tied in determining the educational policies of the Commonwealth?

Prof. Button's Statement
Prof. Button issued the following statement:

The Morehead State Normal School and Teachers' College was placed on the "approved" or non-membership list of colleges at the meeting of the Southern Association in Houston, Texas, in December. This means that the college will come up for full membership at the meeting in Lexington next December, as this step is preliminary to final action.

Dean W. H. Vaughn represented the president at this meeting and presented a very clear report which was presented to the board of regents for their consideration. As one member said he did not have time to read the report it was thought best to have some expert advice on the organization of the institution.

I, therefore, asked Dean Paul P. Boyd and Prof. Ezra L. Gillis, registrar, at the University of Kentucky, to come to Morehead for the purpose of making recommendations for the benefit of the Teachers' College. This they very kindly did and, in conference with myself and some other members of the Morehead faculty, Mr. Gillis suggested that a formal survey of the institution be made. Mr. Gillis then saw Senator Alle W. Young and suggested a list of persons who would make a good survey commission.

The board of regents selected Drs. Work and Judd, of Chicago University, and President Frank L. McVey, of the University of Kentucky, to make the survey. Dr. Judd, declining to serve, Mr. Gillis was appointed in his place. The survey commission came to Morehead and began its work.

The "very excellent report of the survey commission, insofar as it refers to the presidency of the institution, is predicated on the supposition that the board should grant the president all the power and authority necessary, in order to avoid looseness of organization on account of which faculty members and other employees of the institution were allowed direct and confidential communication with members of the board."

Report Clear
The report is so clear on this point that I cannot refrain from quoting the exact language as follows:

"One of the great friction points in college administration is found in the relations of the president to the board and of the board to the faculty and president. There must be some agency which acts as the responsible head of a project, be it commercial or educational. That head is the president. Through him, all matters affecting the business and instruction of the institution should go. If members of the staff go to the board, the president is left without knowledge of the situation and his authority is undermined and usefulness ended. This is a tragedy and one too frequent in American education."

It was agreed by all parties, as I understood it, that the fundamental trouble with the school was that the authority of the president was not duly recognized in the organization. I then stated to the commission that if the dominant personality of the Board of Regents would not concede to me the freedom of action necessary to the

management of the school, it would be better to have another president selected. I went to Senator Young and talked over the matter with him, in a friendly way. It was conceded that I should not present my resignation in a formal way, but "out of the picture if and when it seemed best to select a new president. It was understood that this matter should be kept in confidence, as the board did not want to be besieged by persons applying for the position. This was still my understanding of the situation until my return from the meeting at Lexington March 29, but on returning to Morehead I found that I had been asked to resign, and this is also evidenced by a subsequent statement of Senator Young in the Lexington Herald.

I have been asked if there is any dissension in the Board of Regents. There is absolutely none. They all speak as the voice of one man.

Mentioned for President

Many good men have been mentioned for the position of president, among them Dr. W. S. Taylor, of the University of Kentucky; Dr. Jesse Adams, of the University of Kentucky; Prof. Roemer, of the University of Florida; Prof. J. B. Holloway, of the State Department of Education, and Judge Earl W. Senn, of Mt. Sterling, secretary of the Board of Regents.

Any good man can succeed as president on condition that he be given a free hand in the educational policy of the institution in conformity with the suggestion made by the survey commission.

Fundamental, to the success of the school is the reorganization, at an early date, of the Board of Regents. This statement is without any reflection on the members of the board as now constituted, but the board is concentrated in three counties of the State and the great mountain constituency is without representation. Some members should be appointed from the great territory which the institution was founded primarily to serve.

Several different reasons have been given for the removal of the faculty and the report of the survey commission has been given as one of the reasons for this action. It has also been stated that the members of the faculty removed are not qualified for their position. Of this number, Prof. S. H. McGuire has his Master's degree from the University of Kentucky. He is the principal of the high school or normal department and is eminently qualified for this position.

Miss Bettie Robinson, teacher of English, has the Bachelor's degree from Georgetown College and her Master's degree from Columbia University, together with a supervisor's certificate from the latter institution. Last year, in order to equip herself more completely for the teaching of English, she spent the summer in England and Scotland. Miss Lola Taylor, of the modern language department, is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and holds a Master's degree from Columbia University.

The survey report, instead of recommending her dismissal, recommended that, with a little more preparation, she could be placed at the head of the foreign language department of the institution.

All of the other teachers dismissed or granted leaves of absence have either degrees or diplomas in special departments such as music and expression. These facts indicate that the regents have not been acting in harmony with the recommendations of the survey commission. In fact, the survey commission did not undertake to say what members of the faculty and what officials should be retained or dismissed.

I have just seen a statement in one of the papers that the enrollment in the college department of the institution is only 130. I cannot believe that this statement was given out advisedly as the present enrollment in the college department is 324, and the enrollment in the normal department is 389. The persons who were notified that they need not return to the institution are not in the college department at all, with three exceptions. My understanding is also that the action of the survey commission was that they were not to make suggestions in regard to the high school or normal faculty but concerning the college faculty.

I have also been asked why I stayed in the institution with my hands tied. I feel that I have made a great mistake in so doing, but are not the hands of the electorate of the State as completely tied in determining the educational policies of the Commonwealth?

THIRTY-ONE JOIN BROADWAY CHURCH

rites of baptism to be administered to 20 at service tonight.

There were 31 additions to the Broadway Christian church during the services Sunday, when Dr. R. E. Snodgrass, evangelist, preached at morning and evening services. It is expected 20 persons will be baptized at the services tonight, beginning at 7:15 o'clock.

The young people from the junior and intermediate departments and the Sunday school will sit together at the service tonight and a delegation is expected from Kirklevington community. Dr. Snodgrass will preach on "Repentance."

Dr. Snodgrass, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pollock, song evangelists, conducted a service Sunday afternoon at Kirklevington, where there were two conversions.

In his sermon Sunday night, Dr. Snodgrass preached on the theme, "Heart Belief; Mouth Confession." In part, he said:

Any mouth confession of Christ that is not rooted in a heart belief is so much mockery and an insult to God. There is a difference in a head belief and a heart belief. Most folk will give an intellectual assent to the things of God, but many are not willing to give expression of a heart faith, a belief that will compel allegiance. No man can believe in the heart and refuse to obey the object of his faith.

If you believe in Jesus Christ, my brother, why don't you stand up and confess it? Men are willing to stand for the things, usually, they believe in. If you are a member of a lodge or club you'll wear a pin on your coat to let the world know about it. If you are an American, you gladly stand at attention as the old flag goes by, for you are proud to be known as an American, but when Jesus Christ asks you to come out and make a public stand for Him, you pick up your hat and drop your eyes and sneak out. The church is the greatest institution on earth and any man can well be proud to be a part of it. There isn't a person in Lexington who would want to live in a community of infidels. It is about time a good many citizens of this city were saying "thank you, Lord," for your many blessings. We are too busy to be holy these days.

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