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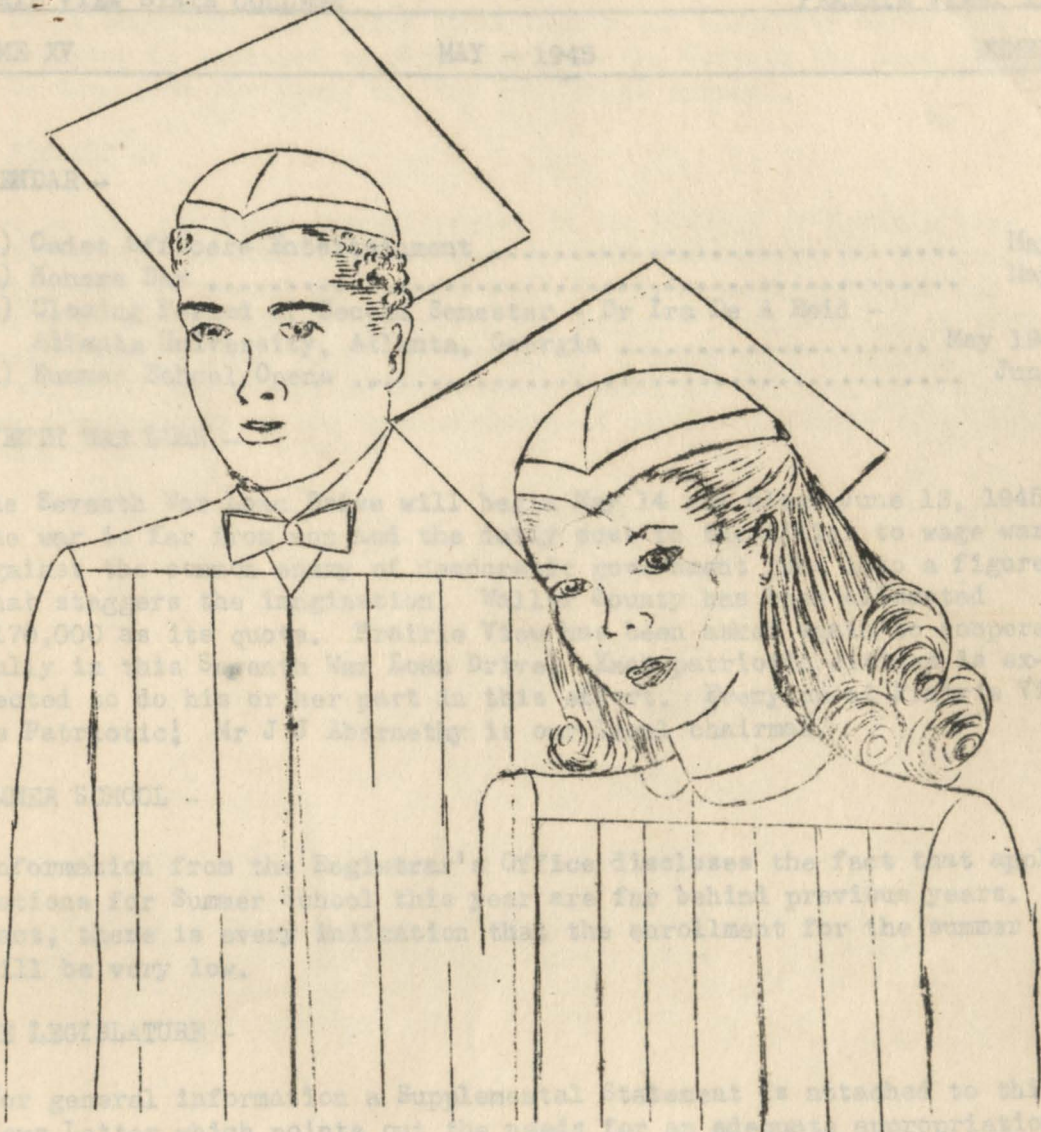
Prairie View State College

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A. CALENDAR

- (a) Commencement May 4
- (b) Summer Session May 9
- (c) Convocation May 12-23
- (d) Homecoming June 1

B. SEVENTH YEAR

The Seventh Year will begin on May 13, 1945. The work will be on a full-time basis. The figures for the Seventh Year are as follows: Total enrollment \$17,000.00. The State Department of Education has approved the plan for the Seventh Year. The enrollment for the Seventh Year will be very low.

C. SUMMER SCHOOL

Information from the Registrar's Office indicates the fact that applications for Summer School are for third previous years. In fact, there is even indication that the enrollment for the summer will be very low.

D. THE LEGISLATURE

For general information a Supplemental Statement is attached to this News Letter which points out the need for an adequate appropriation for Prairie View State College the next biennium. The memorandum on the revised budget will be attached to the June News Letter. This information might be of interest to many staff members and friends of the college.

E. PROFESSIONAL RANKING

Professional ranking of the faculty of Prairie View State College has followed a rather disultory process since the establishment of the college. The status of the institution now makes it necessary to set up a formula for professional ranking and salaries paid according to rank. This formula will be presented to the Board of Directors as approved by the Board of Directors.

NEWS LETTER

PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE

PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

VOLUME XV

MAY - 1945

NUMBER 9

A. CALENDAR -

- (a) Cadet Officers Entertainment May 4
- (b) Honors Day May 9
- (c) Closing Period of Second Semester - Dr Ira De A Reid -
Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia May 19-23
- (d) Summer School Opens June 1

B. SEVENTH WAR LOAN -

The Seventh War Loan Drive will begin May 14 and close June 13, 1945. The war is far from won and the daily cost to the Allies to wage war against the common enemy of democratic government runs into a figure that staggers the imagination. Waller County has been allocated \$170,000 as its quota. Prairie View has been asked again to cooperate fully in this Seventh War Loan Drive. Each patriotic citizen is expected to do his or her part in this effort. Everyone at Prairie View is Patriotic! Mr J J Abernethy is our local chairman.

C. SUMMER SCHOOL -

Information from the Registrar's Office discloses the fact that applications for Summer School this year are far behind previous years. In fact, there is every indication that the enrollment for the summer will be very low.

D. THE LEGISLATURE -

For general information a Supplemental Statement is attached to this News Letter which points out the needs for an adequate appropriation for Prairie View State College the next biennium. The memorandum on the revised budget will be attached to the June News Letter. This information might be of interest to many staff members and friends of the college.

E. PROFESSIONAL RANKING -

Professional ranking of the faculty of Prairie View State College has followed a rather desultory practice since the establishment of the college. The status of the institution now makes it necessary to set up a formula for professional ranking and salaries paid according to rank. The June News Letter will carry the program of faculty ranking as approved by the Board of Directors.

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A & M COLLEGE OF TEXAS AND
OF EDUCATION FOR PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE

F. THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND -

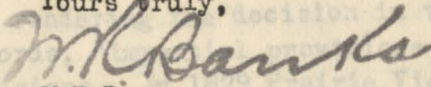
1. It is important that every staff member pay Community Chest dues.
2. Everyone is expected to participate in the Seventh War Loan Drive.
3. Be sure that our lawns are cut and hedges trimmed.

G. AND FINALLY -

This is the supremely crucial period in the history of Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College in that the outcome of the present budget will determine whether it shall "be increased, enlarged and made into a first class university for Negroes", stimulating in their hearts genuine Hope, Faith and Pride, or a third rate institution around which the Clouds of Controversy, Mistrust, Antagonism and Bitterness shall gather to the embarrassment of the Great People of a Great State.

I am

Yours truly,



W R Banks
Principal

WRB:c

P S: Meeting usual place and time. WRB

G. ABNORMAL EXPENSES RESULT OF DUALITY

Experience and records support the conclusion that the cost of maintenance of any dichotomous system or enterprise, with the same objectives, deviates radically from the normal. In the 17 states where dual education is the practice the obvious trend of the support and maintenance for the education of the minority group proceeds in the path incompatible with the normal cost, while that of the majority group follows the norm. This holds true, if impartially administered, from the

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A & M COLLEGE OF TEXAS AND
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR PRAIRIE VIEW STATE
COLLEGE
PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

W. R. BANKS

A. ORIGIN AND NATURE OF EDUCATION FOR COLORED PEOPLE OF TEXAS

The present pattern of education in Texas stems from Constitutional provisions of 1876 under Article VII, Section 7, "Schools for White and Colored" and Section XIV, "Branch University for Colored". The State Constitution is clear and specific in its mandates that "Separate schools shall be provided for the white and colored children, and impartial provisions made for both"; and, "the legislature shall also, when deemed practicable, establish and provide for the maintenance of a College or branch University for the Colored youths of the State", thus legalizing dual education and making it the responsibility of the State of Texas to make "impartial" provisions for its support and maintenance. The United States Supreme Court in rendering the decision in the Lloyd Gaines Case in 1938 interpreted the words, "impartial provisions made for both" to mean, in spirit, Equal Provisions. In 1879 Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College was established for the purpose expressed in Section XIV, Article VII of the Texas Constitution.

B. PURPOSE AND SCOPE: PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE

The College must make available educational services for 1,000,000 Negroes in Texas - the largest minority group in the State - generally in the same areas of training and interests as the 15 white institutions of higher learning serve the majority group of 6,000,000 whites. Consequently, if qualified Negro students of Texas desire training in the fields of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Teacher Education, Nursing Education, Mechanical Arts, Trades and training in specialized areas, Prairie View State College is obligated to make provisions for these courses regardless of size of classes and cost of maintenance and support.

C. ABNORMAL EXPENSES SEQUEL OF DUALITY

Experience and records support the conclusion that the cost of maintenance of any dichotomous system or enterprise, with the same objectives, deviates radically from the normal. In the 17 states where dual education is the practice the obvious trend of the support and maintenance for the education of the minority group proceeds in the path incompatible with the normal cost, while that of the majority group follows the norm. This holds true, if impartially administered, from the

kindergarten through the institutions of higher learning.

D. STATE APPROPRIATIONS TO NEGRO COLLEGES FOR 1944-1945 COMPARED

NAME	APPROPRIATION	ENROLLMENT	COST PER STUDENT
Louisiana	\$392,000.00	806	\$468.00
Missouri	\$445,250.00	951	\$468.00
Oklahoma	\$455,000.00	1,067	\$426.00
North Carolina	\$260,000.00	673	\$387.00
West Virginia	\$271,000.00	800	\$338.00
Alabama	\$200,000.00	670	\$298.00
Tennessee	\$284,850.00	1,010	\$282.00
Virginia	\$304,855.00	1,121	\$272.00
Texas	\$222,230.00	1,246	\$183.00

The amounts of these appropriations for eight Negro State Colleges for the present fiscal year were obtained within the last ten days.

Note: Capital outlays are not included in these appropriations.

E. THE PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE BUDGET - OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

The Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College was established for the purpose of performing a specific and special function: To Provide Higher Education for the Colored Youths of Texas. In carrying out this purpose, in a satisfactory way - under a system that leads to abnormal cost - the budget of the college should be considered and made purely on the basis of Needs growing out of Objectives and not on a common denominator - the Norm; and, to follow any other course the State would penalize its own creature.

F. RANK OF PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE

For an American college to maintain and enjoy the respect and confidence of its Constituency, it is necessary for the institution to qualify under standards set up by reputable agencies of local and national prestige. At present the institution is rated by the Texas State Department of Education, the American Council on Education, the American Medical Association and the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. To obtain and maintain this rating and recognition will involve such factors as training and experience of faculty, Library Service, educational equipment and program. The training of the present staff is as follows:

1. With the Ph D degree 9
 2. With one or more years above Masters degree 13
 3. Masters degree 41
 4. Bachelors degree 20
- Total..... 83

Note: These faculty members are graduates from California, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, North-Western, Chicago, Ohio, Indiana, Columbia, Cornell, New York, Boston, Harvard, Prairie View, Howard, Hampton and Atlanta.

G. PRAIRIE VIEW STATE COLLEGE FACES CRISIS

Caught in the impact of the movement to equalize educational opportunities for Negroes throughout the South, in obedience to the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in 1938 in the Gaines Case, accelerated by suits, threats of suits, and public sentiment, Prairie View State College faces today the greatest crisis in its history, to the end that its prestige is threatened and the effectiveness of its services to the Negro citizens of the State is greatly curtailed. The present projected and contemplated program of the institution cannot be efficiently maintained in the face of its inability to hold the best trained and most competent members of the faculty. The present budget recommendations to the Forty-Ninth Legislature do not safeguard the institution from raids on its faculty by other states, private colleges and city school systems nor offer a guarantee of the continuance of the high quality of its educational services. A sampling of recent salary offers to faculty members from other institutions will focalize attention on the acuteness of the situation:

NAME	OFFER	DATE OF OFFER	SCHOOL	PRESENT BUDGET PROVISIONS
G L Smith	\$4,800.00	12-20-44	Fort Valley State, Ga	\$3,168.00
Dr H A Bullock	\$4,500.00	3-25-45	Fort Valley State, Ga	\$3,000.00
C L Wilson	\$3,600.00	7-16-45	Virginia State, Va	\$2,232.00
O J Baker	\$3,000.00	4- 5-44	Lincoln University, Mo	\$2,160.00
Dr E E O'Banion	\$2,850.00	9- 5-44	Talladega, Alabama	\$2,100.00
Miss C Terry	\$1,800.00	3-15-45	Trinity Hospital, Mich	\$ 864.00
J R Butts	\$2,700.00	3-27-45	North Carolina College	\$1,140.00

Out of loyalty to and interest in Prairie View State College these people to date have not resigned.

Note: Letters and telegrams containing these offers are on file.

H. HARMONIOUS RACE RELATIONS ESSENTIAL

The 1,000,000 Negroes in Texas have no plans for leaving the State; they do plan to live here, in the midst of 6,000,000 whites, and make their contribution to society, on their merits, as worthy citizens. In this period of unrest, suspicion, doubt and tension it becomes highly essential that all forces in Texas work diligently, in one accord, for harmonious race relations and good will. More liberal provisions for

Prairie View State College at this time, that it might go forward "enlarged and increased" so that it can render more effective and complete service to colored citizens will alleviate much tension and controversy.

I. SUMMARY

The implications from this body of information and factual data unmistakably warrant these deductions:

1. The Texas Constitution legalizes a dichotomous pattern of public education for white and colored youths of the state with "impartial provisions made for both"; and, the United States Supreme Court, in the decision in the Lloyd Gaines Case, made it clear that the responsibility of making equal provisions for the maintenance and support of such education is the obligation of the State.
2. The purposes of Prairie View State College are both Special and Composite, in that it must serve the total higher educational interests of colored citizens in the same manner as the white citizens are served, in undergraduate and graduate areas, through their eight Teachers Colleges in Teacher Education; the A & M College and West Texas Tech chiefly in the fields of Agriculture, Engineering and Applied Science; The Texas State College for Women in the fields of Home Life; The University of Texas in the Liberal Arts and Sciences; and, Nursing Education at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston.
3. A single institution serving in a multitude of areas of special and general training obviously encounters a cost range that deviates from the norm, and in view of the unique nature of its functions budgetary requirements must be considered and provided on the points of Objectives and Needs rather than on a Norm basis.
4. Simple justice prompts the conviction that the Negro citizens of Texas deserve the best in education for their children, that the work of their only state institution should not be cheapened because of its inability to provide experienced and well prepared teachers as other Southern States are providing for their colored citizens. The product of Prairie View State College should be able to compete with the product of the best institutions in the country.
5. Adequate provisions for Prairie View State College, at this moment have become a vital public concern, as reflected in state wide expressions of approval by the public Press, the pulpit, business interests, religious, educational and professional leaders of both white and colored people.
6. It would be unfortunate for the national reputation of our Great State and the pride of the people will be greatly embarrassed if antagonism, suspicion and bitter controversy are permitted to gather and thicken, at this time, over the budgetary provisions of Prairie View State College.

CRISIS AT PRAIRIE VIEW

The Texas board of education has recommended that Prairie View State College "be enlarged, increased and made into a first-class university for Negroes". The board of directors of A & M College, which governs Prairie View College, has moved to implement such a development by recommending a budget of \$405,630 and \$446,630 respectively for the next two years.

In the face of these proposals, the budget recommendations before the Texas Legislature total only \$299,540 for the biennium.

"By no stretch of the imagination nor the inspiration of genius can Prairie View College be enlarged, increased, and made into a first class university for Negroes with these amounts," declared W R Banks, the principal, in a recent appeal to the appropriations committees of the Legislature. On the contrary, he fears that Prairie View will deteriorate into a third-rate institution unless its financial support is substantially increased. And he gives compelling reasons for the fear.

During the past six years 42 professors assigned to graduate work at Prairie View have resigned to accept work elsewhere, he declared. This drain has resulted from greatly increased appropriations for Negro higher education in nine Southern States, and from the salary equalization movement in Texas high schools. Virtually all the better State and private colleges for the race throughout the South pay substantially better salaries than Prairie View; even the high schools in the larger Texas cities do.

"The periodical raiding of our key faculty members by colleges and schools offering higher salaries has confronted this institution with the most difficult problem in its history," declares Principal Banks.

There are about 1,000,000 Negroes in Texas - roughly one-seventh of the population. There is one State-supported school of higher education for Negroes, and 16 of them for whites. The Legislature appropriates more than \$12,000,000 a year for the white colleges and universities; the least of them gets more than Prairie View. One-seventh of the population gets about one-fortieth of the appropriation for higher education.

Is this right?

As Principal Banks told the Legislature, "these people are here to stay; they must be integrated into American life on the basis of merit in such effective manner that they shall not be liabilities but useful citizens." If the Negroes are to have but one of 17 State colleges it is only fair and sensible to give that one decent support. By such discrimination against Prairie View Texas not only works against her own best interest economically, but puts herself in a bad light as an enlightened commonwealth.

The A and M board of directors and the Texas board of education have made a wise recommendation for Prairie View; the Legislature will be wise to heed it.

THE HOUSTON PRESS - APRIL 7, 1945

NEGRO EDUCATION

Six years ago, the U S Supreme Court held that in a state where segregation of races is practiced that state must give equal educational facilities to all races.

Texas is not complying with this mandate, nor are several other Southern states.

This is a political and sociological error of the most serious sort.

Our negroes not only deserve better educational opportunities. It is to our advantage for them to have it.

A recent FBI report shows the states having large Negro populations had the highest ratio of murders, according to population. In last week's Time Magazine, a Negro is quoted as saying that the all-Negro army division had not measured up, in combat, largely because of the high illiteracy rate which made good training-ground soldiers lose confidence when on their own against a crafty enemy.

Further than that, Negroes know they are being discriminated against in educational matters. It is a sore spot that no amount of good will demonstrations can overcome.

Our Legislature was asked to appropriate \$400,000 per year for the next biennium for Prairie View College, the only state-supported institution of higher learning for Negroes in Texas.

The Appropriations Committee slashed Prairie View's request in half. And \$200,000 a year simply is not enough for the school.

It is a generally accepted fact that well-educated Negroes, like well-educated whites, Chinese, Filipinos or Latin Americans, are a factor for good among their people. First they earn the respect of those who have less learning, then they guide them toward higher standards of behavior and a better life.

The Legislature still has time to do a real service by voting Prairie View adequate funds. As matters now stand, the Negroes, comprising about one-tenth of Texas' population, receive but one-fortieth of its educational benefits. The law requires a much better share than the Legislature has ever provided, and the wise thing at this time would be to lean over backward to see that Negro educational opportunities are improved, not skimped and strangled while the state tosses money away elsewhere.