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Herpel Discusses Administrative Changes

Doug Megla, Interviewer
Mr. Coleman Herpel,
College Director

Why was President Oswald here to meet with faculty?

His purpose was to outline the general mission of the University with particular reference to the Capitol Campus, which has developed to the point where it can operate to a large extent independently within the general policies of the University. He said that in recognition of the achievement of this status he would create for Capitol a new position of Provost—a position of top leadership for all academic and administrative matters. He also asked the Faculty through the elected Faculty Council to provide him with a panel of eight names from which he could choose four to serve with three others from other parts of the University as an advisory committee on suitable candidates for Provost.

Did you know the President was going to do this?

Yes, President Oswald had discussed with us the desirability of greater independence for Capitol, as had President Walker before him. The specific plan for a Provost was developed quite recently by the President.

Why are no students on the advisory committee?

Although neither students nor staff members will be named on the working committee, President Oswald was quite explicit in saying that the committee would be charged to insure input from all segments of the Capitol community—students and staff as well as faculty. I believe that he has structured a useful group to provide sustained effort over the period of time that may be required.



COLEMAN HERPEL—Campus Director discusses the role of the Provost, with Doug Megla, CAPITOLIST interviewer.

Why make this change at Capitol?

The Capitol Provost is only one of several changes contemplated by President Oswald to strengthen the University in all of its components—University Park, Hershey Medical, and the Commonwealth Campuses—and to acknowledge the changing status of each of them. The change at Capitol is not isolated but a part of a plan for the University as it goes forward into the Seventies.

Is there something wrong at Capitol?

There are probably several things "wrong" at Capitol! At least, I know of no

one—including myself—who finds complete satisfaction with what we are doing and how we are doing it. However, if you mean, "Is there something wrong that the Provost is supposed to fix?", then the answer is no. The Provost is to strengthen Capitol movement forward in achievement and service into a new phase of its development, not to rescue it from disaster.

Will the Provost change things?

Surely he will, as he works with the Capitol community of students, staff, and faculty and determines their strengths and their desires in relation to University purposes and

resources. What changes will come, of course, we could only speculate, about—not a very profitable enterprise.

How will the appointment of the Provost affect students?

Favorably, I should think, although most of the matters closely affecting students—academic programs, student life, housing, parking, tuition now either are under local control or are dictated by economic necessities that would be as compelling to the Provost at Capitol as to a Vice-President at University Park.

How does all this affect you, Mr. Herpel?

It is much too soon to say. President Oswald, I believe, is simply conveying to the Capitol community in particular and to the University community at large that here is an opportunity to look at the top leadership role at Capitol in an enlarged version and to determine who can serve best in the next phase of Capitol's development.

When is the position of Provost to begin?

The President told the Faculty he hoped it would be possible by September 1, 1971, but he acknowledged that it might require a longer time—possibly until December.

Isn't Capitol already largely independent?

Yes, it is. The establishment of the position of Provost acknowledges this and provides a basis for formally recognizing Capitol's status. I believe the President intends to complete the transfer of authority and accountability for a few functions not now handled at Capitol. Policy direction and certain all-University functions, of course, will remain in the Office of the President.

To Commit an Act of Civil Disobedience

On May 1 through 5 a small minority of the American people (probably no more than 10,000) will congregate in the nation's capital to commit a crime. Their reward is uncertain and their rationale varied, only their immediate purpose stands as a point of group identity. Through acts of non-violent civil disobedience they intend to close down the city of Washington, rallying around the motto, "If the government won't stop the war, the people will stop the government." They will be calling for an end to the war with the acceptance of the People's Peace Treaty; the discontinuation of the Selective Service System; the freeing of political prisoners; a minimum family annual income of \$6,500; and the end of all forms of repression against the poor. These are the facts that the government will have to deal with, but there is something here that the entire nation should consider—why has lawbreaking become an alternative to legal dissent!

The peace movement has gone through various stages of dissent in its ever lengthening history of attempts to relate to the government. All of them—letter writing, lobbying, legal mass rallies, peace candidates—have proven themselves ineffective. Depending upon legal procedures they have accomplished little more than illustrating the governments ability to ignore aims that conflict with established policy. When faced with the fallacy of legal dissent there are few roads open. How unjustifiable a crime can non-violent civil disobedience be when it is a reaction to a government that has legalized genocide! How else can a frustrated people express discontent without resorting to the government's tactic—violence!

Those present at the various targets that week in May can best be understood as thousands of individuals. Their personal commitment is a result of personal consideration—unrelated to broader organizational goals. In violating their nations law they are claiming the existence of a more just order. For most of them the toleration of certain legal restrictions is in itself an effective restriction from communicating an intolerable situation. They are out to tell the government that they are tired of waiting for humanitarianism to become a consideration in its international and domestic affairs. They have picked their method—hopefully the right one.

OSWALD: CAPITOL TO HAVE PROVOST

University President John W. Oswald announced at a special meeting of the faculty on April 14, 1971, the creation of the post of provost at Capitol Campus.

The action, President Oswald said, is being taken in view of the size and growth of the Capitol Campus and in line with development of a master plan for the University. A similar position is being established at the Hershey Medical Center.

The provost, according to President Oswald, will have full responsibility for both academic and administrative aspects of the campus. He will serve as chief administrative officer and report directly to the President.

President Oswald proposed the appointment of a seven-man search committee to recommend candidates for the provost position which he hoped would be filled by September, 1971.

At the April 15 meeting of the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Council submitted the names of eight faculty members from which President Oswald will appoint four to the committee. The eight men selected include

four members of the Faculty Council: Dr. William F. Lewis (Chairman of the Council), Edward V. Trunk, Dr. Duane R. Smith, and Robert J. Graham. The remaining four are Dr. Lloyd W. Woodruff, Dr. George Gumas, Dr. Wayne Lee, and John D. Antrium. The other three committee members will be selected by the President from other areas within the University Community. The committee is to be finalized by May 1, 1971.

Dr. Richard H. Heimdel, Dean of the Faculty, commented that both he and Coleman Herpel, Director of Capitol Campus welcomed the change and added that they were expecting and looking forward to the President's action for some time. In response to a question posed by Lee Levan, President of the Student Government Association concerning student participation in the selection of a provost, Dr. Lee stated that the search committee will be charged with the responsibility of including members of the student body and staff in the selection process.

ANNOUNCING BLACK STUDIES THIS FALL

by Roger L. Hawkins

The University has approved the admittance of an Afro-American Studies Option here at Capitol, to go into effect next term. It will be incorporated into both the Social Science and the Humanities curriculums.

This program will enable students to work effectively and provide creative leadership in governmental agencies, community action programs, and social agencies. In addition, the Afro-American Studies option will allow the student who wishes to pursue graduate work in Black Studies to do so.

The following are a list of the courses to be offered in the Afro-American Studies option, in both the Social Science and the Humanities curriculums:

Af.St. 301—Modern Africa South of the Sahara; Af.St. 310—Black History to the twentieth Century; Af.St.

312—Race and Racism; Af.St. 313—Contemporary Black Community; Am.St. 441—The Negro in American Experience; Lit. 340—Form and Function: Black Experience in America; Lit. 460—Literature in Time: A Survey of Afro-American Lit; Hum. 451—Race and Nationalism in literature: Black Lit; Af.St. 360—Afro-American Music Twentieth Century; Af.St. 413—Black Community Involvement (3CC units); Af.St. 420—Crisis, Black Leadership and Social Change; Af.St. 430—Black Aesthetic Expression; So.Sci. or Hum. 498—Special Topics and So.Sci. or Hum. 499—Independent Study.

If any student desires more information concerning the program of Afro-American Studies, contact Black Student Union president Leroy Howell (944-9047).