

# Private Colleges: New York, Heeding Bundy Group's Advice, Approves Aid

On 24 May the New York State Legislature passed a precedent-setting measure which not only is of importance to private colleges in New York State but may eventually influence the funding of private institutions in other states. The bill passed by the Legislature authorizes the provision of state funds to private institutions of higher learning. The money given will be awarded directly according to the number of degrees granted—\$400 for each bachelor's or master's degree and \$2400 for each Ph.D. The money to be given in the first year of the program's operation, which is scheduled to begin on 1 July 1969, will, at least initially, not be a large sum—about \$33 million—but it will represent, in the words of one New York educator, "the camel's nose under the tent." In the private colleges, there is the obvious hope that greater amounts will be forthcoming in future years.

## Hotly Contested Bill

The measure authorizing aid to private colleges and universities eventually passed both houses of the Legislature by a margin of more than 2 to 1, but only after it had been hotly contested by some legislators. A second bill, to initiate amendment of the state constitution so that church-affiliated colleges could also receive aid, was not acted on by the Legislature.

One of the factors which reportedly helped insure passage of the bill to aid nonsectarian private colleges was the support of many of the leaders of the church-related colleges, including the Catholic institutions. More than half of New York's 143 private colleges and universities are church-related.

The bills, backed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, represented relatively quick action on the recommendations, made earlier this year, of a committee appointed by Rockefeller and Chancellor Edgar W. Couper of the Board of Regents. It was the unanimous conclusion of the committee, which was chaired by Ford Foundation president McGeorge Bundy,\* that "the moderate but real level of present need now calls

for direct assistance from New York State to private colleges and universities." Without such assistance, the committee concluded, "there is likely to be serious deterioration in one of the state's great assets"—its private institutions of higher learning.

The committee knew that its deliberations were of interest to many educators outside New York State. "Because the problem before us is national in character," its report noted, "we are keenly aware that what is done in New York may have national importance. Any doubt that these problems have relevance beyond the Empire State was emphatically dispelled by the inquiries we received from all parts of the country."

The committee emphasized that its support of private education should not be interpreted as any downgrading of New York's public institutions of higher education, on which the state now spends \$250 million annually. The committee said it was essential that the progress of the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University in New York City (CUNY) be maintained.

Although the committee, when it started its study, had grave doubts about the economic well-being of private colleges, it concluded that they are "in better health than we or they had supposed." The committee said that, although there was evidence of crisis in particular cases, the general picture was one of "serious need, but not of impending catastrophe." The committee concluded that there was no reason to expect the standards of private colleges to decline, and no reason to fear the eventual disappearance of private institutions.

In the committee's judgment, New York's private colleges face a total

annual deficit of \$20 to \$25 million within 3 or 4 years and have a backlog of deferred maintenance of \$45 million to \$55 million. The committee said that the four private universities studied were in worse financial shape than the smaller institutions; in the academic year 1966-67, all four were operating at a deficit, which ranged from \$477,000 to more than \$2.5 million. Three of these universities have medical centers which are incurring rapidly rising deficits which range from \$180,000 annually to \$2 million; in the case of two of the three, these medical-center deficits are already major. The committee also noted that at each of the four private universities there has been a decline in the number of student credit hours taught per faculty member, while at the smaller institutions there was a general trend toward an increase in the number of student credit hours taught by the professors.

## Scholarship Program

While finding that "a modest amount of public aid" was vital to the health of New York's private colleges, the committee insisted that these colleges should not become primarily dependent on the state. "We believe that the private institutions must always look to many sources other than the state for the bulk of their support," it argued. The group also examined New York's existing aid programs from the standpoint of assistance to private education (it noted that New York's state scholarship program provides 2½ times as much scholarship money as is provided by all the other states combined). While the committee concluded that the state's Scholar Incentive Program had served students well, it felt that the program had not been of significant financial benefit to the private institutions.

It is important, the committee said, that the institutions be aided directly, and in such a way as to avoid possible state interference with educational freedom and function. The group thought it vital that institutions set their own priorities, and it thought that direct aid allowed them to do so better than did aid earmarked for specific purposes such as scholarships, raising faculty salaries, or constructing new buildings. Some have criticized the group proposal to make direct grants on the basis of number of degrees awarded on the grounds that this contributes to the creation of "diploma mills," but the

\*Other members of the group, called the Select Committee on the Future of Private and Independent Higher Education in New York State, were: James Bryant Conant, former president of Harvard; John A. Hannah, president of Michigan State University; the Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame; and Abram L. Sachar, president of Brandeis. Copies of the report may be obtained without charge from the Bureau of Publications, State Education Department, Albany, N.Y. 12224.

committee said the New York Board of Regents had adequate authority to regulate private colleges in New York and urged the Regents to use it.

The committee also opposed those who have argued that the University of Buffalo could have been saved as a private institution by the infusion of a few million dollars in state funds. The group concluded that the university's quality has been "markedly improved" by its public status, that only injections of state aid could have brought it to its present level, and that the requisite public funds needed to save it as a private institution would have undermined its private status. (The 155-page report contains a 7-page description of the SUNY center at Buffalo.)

Although the committee praised the contribution of private colleges, it was very critical of these institutions for their poor planning and for their inadequate efforts to acquire important data. "Essential management information is lacking in almost every institution studied, and misconceptions concerning the nature and extent of their own financial problems are widespread among top officials in most of the institutions surveyed," the group stated.

In all the institutions studied, the committee concluded, tuition fees, gifts, and unrestricted endowment income were generally sufficient to cover the costs of instruction and of non-sponsored research. Where most institutions suffer deficits is in the operation of auxiliary activities (dormitories, cafeterias, book stores), in intercollegiate athletics, in sponsored research, and in other noninstructional activities. The group thought that many institutions would have taken steps to make such activities pay their own way if their account- and management-reporting services had accurately revealed the need to do so. The report stated that, in schools with substantial numbers of students who live off campus, these students might well be helping subsidize the living costs of those in residence.

Sponsored research, particularly of government origin, was singled out as one of the greatest contributors to institutional deficits. Losses have been increasing most, the committee said, in institutions where such research programs are greatest. The committee argued that institutions should not accept sponsored research unless full overhead expenses could be recovered.

The time for the state to act on the financial problems of private institu-

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **U.C. TO AID CITIES:** Charles J. Hitch, president of the University of California, has directed his nine campuses to mobilize their resources to help deal with America's urban crisis. "Our nation, our state, and our cities are in the grip of a crisis. It is a moral, economic, and racial crisis. It is also an educational crisis," he told the regents in a special report. Hitch announced four immediate steps: the use of \$1 million in new revenue from student fees to expand UC's Educational Opportunity Programs, thereby more than doubling the amount available to aid disadvantaged students; efforts to recruit more minority group students for graduate and professional programs; efforts to improve elementary and secondary schools by focusing "the fullest possible assistance" on teacher training and educational research; and the hiring of a fair employment coordinator to spur campus programs for employing members of minority groups and providing job training for teen-agers and the hard-core unemployed. Hitch also announced long-range plans to attack urban problems through research, public service, and education. He said he had asked the heads of California's other public and private colleges and universities and junior colleges to join in a "thorough examination of what must be done and can be done" to enroll more students from disadvantaged groups. He also said he will reorganize the university extension program to carry thought and research from the campus to the heart of the city, and will mobilize the university's capability for systems research on city problems.

● **DADDARIO URGES CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:** In a speech on 4 June, Representative Emilio Q. Daddario (D-Conn.) urged that the National Center for Air Pollution Control and the Solid Waste Division both be transferred from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) to the Interior Department. He recommended that the Interior Department be designated the "lead agency" to coordinate the environmental activities of all government agencies. In the proposed reorganization, HEW would still be responsible for providing health data to Interior for

air- and water-pollution abatement efforts. Daddario, who is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Science, Research and Development, said that he would recommend implementation of this organizational change to the appropriate congressional committees. His subcommittee's study had concluded, he said, that "the Federal government is not organized for environmental management" and that recent federal reorganizations "have worsened the environmental control situation." Speaking to the Symposium on Air Quality Criteria in New York City, Daddario urged the establishment of federal air quality criteria, which the Congress first called for in 1963.

● **SONIC BOOM:** About a dozen persons were injured by flying glass when a sonic boom caused by a low-flying airplane shattered more than 200 windows at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado, on 31 May.

● **PRIVATE PAPERS LEGISLATION:** The New York Legislature approved a measure which would make it a misdemeanor to disclose information contained in private papers without the owner's consent. The bill was prompted by the recent Columbia University riots, during which students stole papers belonging to President Grayson Kirk.

● **NEW PUBLICATIONS:** The National Science Foundation released *American Science Manpower, 1966* in mid-May, a 221-page document which contains information on scientists' education, salary, geographical location, and area of specialization. It may be obtained for \$1.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

The final report from the symposium on "Science and the Human Condition" held last December in Urbana, Illinois, may be obtained without charge from J. A. Snow, Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois, 912 West Illinois, Urbana 61801.

On 24 May, *Congressional Quarterly* published a special report, "The Military-Industrial Complex: A Problem for the Secretary of Defense"; it may be obtained for \$2.50 from *Congressional Quarterly*, 1735 K St., N.W., Washington D.C. 20006.

tions, the committee cautioned, was at hand: "Federal aid to higher education may be forthcoming in greater measure at some later date. New York State should not wait to see these uncertainties resolve, but should take steps now to assist the private institutions. Too often, states wait to see what the Federal Government will do. There are so many imponderables affecting Federal action in these next few years that we cannot predict when direct aid to higher education may assume priority. . . . If and when the Federal Government comes forward with aid, the state program can be modified as necessary."

#### New York Somewhat Unusual

In some ways, it is easier to persuade the state government in New York to aid private education than it is in many other states. In New York, private institutions still enroll more than half the total number of students in higher education, and many of the institutions are large and illustrious. In view of the traditional strength of these private institutions in New York, it might be expected that they would be heard when they expressed their pain about mounting costs and about the competition of the great expenditures that the state has allotted for public education in the last few years.

Despite the fact that New York may be a somewhat unusual case, the state's experiment in financing private education has been noticed elsewhere. Richard Sullivan, president of the Association of American Colleges, said in an interview that he found a great deal of interest in other states about the New York plan. Sullivan pointed out that, in recent years, in close to 20 states private colleges have formed associations, and that these associations have begun to turn their attention to opening up new sources of financing, including the possibility of funds from state governments.

In earlier decades, New York State did not develop a special reputation as a governmental innovator in the higher education field. However, during the 9 years which Rockefeller has served as governor, people outside the state have increasingly found reason to look with envy at New York's greatly improved efforts in university education. Many educators in private institutions elsewhere may conclude that New York has now opened a trail that their own states should follow.—BRYCE NELSON

## APPOINTMENTS



G. M. Sawyer



S. L. Fawcett

**Granville M. Sawyer**, executive assistant to the president, Tennessee A & I State University, to president, Texas Southern University. . . . **Sherwood L. Fawcett**, executive vice president, Battelle Memorial Institute, to president of the institute. He succeeds **B. D. Thomas**, who continues as a member of the board of trustees. . . . **John W. Oswald**, president of the University of Kentucky, to executive vice president of the University of California system. . . . **Carl J. Sindermann**, head of the Maryland laboratory of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, to director of the bureau's Tropical Atlantic Biological Laboratory. . . . **Russell T. Norris**, administrator of the federal aid programs of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, to assistant director for resource development in the bureau. . . . **Robert Fleisher**, deputy head of the office of international science activities, National Science Foundation, to head of the astronomy section, division of mathematical and physical sciences at the NSF. He succeeds **Gerard F. W. Mulders**, who will become program coordinator for National Astronomical Research Centers. . . . **Charles A. Heisterkamp**, surgeon, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, to chief of the new bioengineering section in the surgical branch, U.S. Army Medical Research Development Command. . . . **Reuben Lasker**, associate professor of marine biology, University of California, San Diego, to assistant director for the Fishery Oceanographic Center, La Jolla, California, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. . . . **J. Russell Lindsey**, assistant professor of pathology and laboratory animal medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, to chairman of the new department of comparative medicine, University of Alabama Medical Center. . . . **John H. Franklin**, chairman, department of history, University of Chicago, to chairman, board of trustees, Fisk University.

## RECENT DEATHS

**Robin Beach**, 78; head of Robin Beach Engineers Associated; 21 May.

**Tod W. Campbell**, 48; visiting professor of chemistry at the University of Arizona and former research manager of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company Textile Fibers Department; 9 May.

**John Collier**, 84; former United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs and former professor of sociology and anthropology, City College in New York; 8 May.

**Geza Doby**, 91; former chief of the Agrochemical Institute of Budapest; 6 April.

**J. Franklin Ewing**, 62; director of research services at Fordham University; 21 May.

**Fritz M. Heichelheim**, 67; professor of Greek and Roman history at the University of Toronto; 22 April.

**William A. Horwitz**, 64; professor of clinical psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; 15 May.

**Laurence Klauber**, 85; past president of the Western Division of AAAS and past president of the San Diego Zoo; 8 May.

**Ann G. Kuttner**, 73; associate professor of pediatrics at New York University School of Medicine; 20 May.

**John D. Lohman**, 58; dean of the school of criminology at University of California, Berkeley; 26 April.

**Daniel L. Marsh**, 88; former president and chancellor of Boston University; 20 May.

**John M. McLean**, 58; head of the eye division at New York Hospital and professor of surgery at Cornell University Medical College; 2 May.

**Ferdinand Piazza**, 65; assistant clinical professor of preventive medicine, New York Medical College; 21 April.

**Pincus Schub**, 67; retired associate professor of mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania; 30 January.

**Ferdinand J. M. Sichel**, 61; chairman of the division of biophysics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine; 11 April.

**Alpheus W. Smith**, 92; former chairman of the department of physics and dean of the graduate school at Ohio State University; 18 April.

**Karl A. Stiles**, 72; emeritus professor of zoology and former chairman of the department at Michigan State University; 16 May.