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OPEN MEETING ON UMD CAMPUS
STATEMENT BY R. L. GRIGGS,
UNIVERSITY REGENT
MARCH 13, 1962

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13 March 1962

FIRST, LET ME SAY THAT EVERYTHING VICE PRESIDENT WENBERG AND PROVOST DARLAND HAVE SAID, I MUST CONCUR IN BECAUSE ALL THREE OF US REPRESENT (AND STRONGLY SUPPORT) THE POLICIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, OF WHICH THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, DULUTH IS AN IMPORTANT INTEGRAL PART. ESTABLISHED POLICIES COVERING ATHLETICS ARE NOT ONLY THE WISE PRODUCT OF MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, BUT THEY ARE ALSO THE WISE POLICY -- (AS FAR AS RELATIONSHIPS WITH PROFESSIONAL SPORTS GROUPS OCCUR) -- OF VIRTUALLY EVERY MAJOR UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE IN AMERICA,--PLUS OUR HONORABLE COMMITMENTS TO SUCH ORGANIZATIONS OF NATIONAL STATURE AS THE SO-CALLED "BIG TEN" AND NCAA. IT IS FOOLISH TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CAN WITHDRAW FROM SUCH ORGANIZATIONS OR DICTATE TO THEM, WITHOUT ALSO WITHDRAWING FROM ALL INTER-COLLEGIATE SPORTS, WHICH, OF COURSE, NONE OF US WISH. AND WE, WHO HOLD RESPONSIBILITY, BELIEVE THAT IF THESE POLICIES ARE WISE (AND WE DO),--I.E.,--THE COMPLETE SEPARATION OF PROFESSIONAL SPORTS FROM STRICTLY AMATEUR SPORTS IN COLLEGES,--THEN DULUTH, AS A PART OF THE UNIVERSITY FAMILY, IS JUST AS HONORABLY COMMITTED.

I THOUGHT WE HAD MADE THIS AMPLY CLEAR A YEAR AGO TO A VERY FINE, LOYAL AND ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP OF NOT ONLY UMD BUT TOTAL UNIVERSITY SUPPORTERS, AND I WAS SATISFIED THEN THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD AND APPROVED AND THAT THE MATTER WAS A CLOSED ISSUE.

AND NOW IT IS RESURRECTED WITH HEADLINES IN THE NEWSPAPERS, WITHOUT ANY PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH EITHER DR. DARLAND OR MYSELF, AND, AS YOUR REGENT, I AM DEEPLY DISTURBED OVER THE DAMAGE IT CAN DO (AND I THINK IS DOING) TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, DULUTH IF PURSUED FURTHER TO THE DEAD-END IT MUST CERTAINLY COME TO. THIS TYPE OF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY, KINDLED BY ONLY A FEW PEOPLE, COULD BECOME

REALLY SERIOUS WITHOUT ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING CONSTRUCTIVE. IT MAY SOUND FINE, AND LOGICAL, AND APPEALING, TO A GREAT MANY PEOPLE, WHO ARE REALLY UNINFORMED, TO BE TOLD THAT THESE BUILDINGS BELONG TO THEM,--THE TAXPAYERS,--AND THEY SHOULD BE USED IN ANY WAY THE PUBLIC WANTS TO FOR THEIR ENTERTAINMENT, WHETHER DR. DARLAND, OR PRESIDENT WILSON, OR THE BOARD OF REGENTS, SINCERELY BELIEVE OTHERWISE, AND THEY ARE THE ONES CHOSEN TO MAKE THESE DECISIONS.

WELL, I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE THE TAXPAYERS HAVE DEDICATED THIS DULUTH CAMPUS AND ALL ITS BUILDINGS, NOT TO THEMSELVES, BUT TO SEVERAL THOUSAND YOUNGSTERS,--MOSTLY TEENAGERS,--AND FOR ONE MAJOR PURPOSE,--THAT THEY SHALL GET THE FINEST ACADEMIC AND PRE-PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION THAT MONEY CAN BUY. THEY WANT THEM TO HAVE WHOLESOME AMATEUR SPORTS, BUT IT IS NOT THEIR AMBITION OR WISH TO CONCENTRATE ON TURNING OUT FULLBACKS FOR PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL OR CENTERERS FOR PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL. LET US KEEP OUR REAL OBJECTIVES IN BEHALF OF EDUCATION CLEARLY IN OUR MINDS.

PUBLIC CONTROVERSY ON SOMETHING THAT COVERS A MINOR PART OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, SOON MAY CAST DOUBT IN MANY MINDS OVER THE VERY ABLE ADMINISTRATION OF DR. DARLAND. MISTRUST OF HIS JUDGMENT AND HIS DECISIONS AND HIS ADMINISTRATION OF UNIVERSITY POLICIES, CAN EASILY ARISE AND OUR FIRST OUTBREAK OF SERIOUS DISHARMONY IN 14 YEARS WILL STRIKE US. IT CAN CAUSE DISRUPTION OF THE WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIPS WE HERE IN DULUTH HAVE BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS WITH THE REGENTS AND TOP ADMINISTRATION.

REMEMBER, PLEASE, THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA IS YOUR UNIVERSITY, OWNED BY YOU JUST AS COMPLETELY AS UMD IS. IT IS A GREAT UNIVERSITY THAT WE ALL SHOULD BE TREMENDOUSLY PROUD OF. DR. DARLAND AND I, LEGISLATORS AND AREA CITIZENS SHOULD FEEL DEEPLY INDEBTED TO THE REGENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION FOR WHAT YOU SEE ON THE TOP OF THIS HILL TODAY, ALL OF WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SPLENDID SUPPORT THEY HAVE GIVEN US. SELDOM HAVE THEY EVER DENIED ANY FORM OF SUPPORT WHICH WE HAVE SOUGHT FROM THEM. THEIR SUPPORT

HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE INVALUABLE TO US. WE MUST NOT PUT IT IN JEOPARDY BY ATTACKING WHAT IS NATIONALLY CONCEDED TO BE VERY WISE EDUCATIONAL AND ATHLETIC POLICIES. I THINK WE WILL LOOK A LITTLE RIDICULOUS TO THEM IF A FEW CRITICS CAN ALTER ATHLETIC POLICIES THAT THEY CANNOT ALTER THEMSELVES AND REMAIN IN AMATEUR ATHLETIC COMPETITION. AND REMEMBER, UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS ARE A MILLION-DOLLAR BUSINESS WITH FOOTBALL CARRYING THE LOAD FOR MOST ALL SPORTS AND RECREATION AT THE UNIVERSITY. THIS WAS NOT BUILT THROUGH AFFILIATION WITH ANY PROFESSIONAL SPORTS.

I DO NOT LIKE TO QUARREL WITH CRITICS OF UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC POLICIES. I AM SURE THEY WOULD NOT INTENTIONALLY INJURE THE UNIVERSITY OR UMD ANY MORE THAN I WOULD. THEY SURELY HAVE GREAT PRIDE IN BOTH,--BUT IF HARASSMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICIES CONTINUES, I CAN SEE, AS I SAID, SERIOUS DAMAGING RESULTS TO OUR INTER-LOCKING AND IMMENSELY VALUABLE RELATIONS. THE PRESTIGE AND GUIDANCE OF A GREAT UNIVERSITY IS WHAT HAS BUILT OUR HIGH PRESTIGE AT UMD.

I HAVE BEEN YOUR REGENT NOW FOR OVER 23 YEARS. IN THOSE YEARS, ANY NUMBER OF REQUESTS OF EVERY KIND YOU CAN THINK OF, HAVE COME BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR USE OF VARIOUS UNIVERSITY FACILITIES FOR EVERY CONCEIVABLE PURPOSE, MOSTLY FOR MAKING MONEY AND MOSTLY BY PROFESSIONALS. ONCE YOU INVADE A SOUND POLICY, YOU OPEN THE FLOOD GATES TO ALL KINDS OF PRESSURE GROUPS. ONCE YOU YIELD TO PRESSURE WHEN YOU KNOW IT IS WRONG, YOU ARE IN TROUBLE,--DEEP TROUBLE. DR. DARLAND KNOWS TOO WELL WHAT THIS ACTUALLY MEANS.

DR. DARLAND HAS ALREADY SHOWN THE IMPRACTICABILITY OF HOUSING AND FEEDING GROUPS LIKE THE VIKINGS AT UMD WITHOUT REGARD TO A POLICY FORBIDDING IT. WE CANNOT AS OF NOW MEET THE HOUSING NEEDS OF OUR OWN STUDENTS IN SUMMER, WE STRUGGLE NOW TO FEED STUDENTS AND WE PLAN A NECESSARY EXPANSION FOR THAT PURPOSE. ALL WE COULD DO NOW IS TO GIVE PRO GROUPS LIKE THE VIKINGS A PIECE OF GROUND WHICH, AFTER A FEW PRACTICES IN THE RAIN, COULD EASILY BE MADE UNFIT FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR OWN FOOTBALL SQUAD IN SEPTEMBER, AND YOU KNOW GRASS DOESN'T GROW ANY MORE IN DULUTH IN SEPTEMBER.

I CAN RECOMMEND TO THIS GROUP A REAL SOLUTION FOR THE GOOD OF THE CITY OF DULUTH AND PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL GROUPS LIKE THE VIKINGS FOR YOU TO WORK ON. UMD HAS NOTHING OF VALUE TO OFFER, BUT WE HAVE AT LEAST THREE MAJOR HOTELS THAT ARE STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE. THEY HAVE EXCELLENT HOUSING FACILITIES, THEY CAN PROVIDE A TOP-GRADE TRAINING TABLE, AND UNDOUBTEDLY COULD LOCATE AN ADEQUATE PRACTICE FIELD NOT OVER 10 MINUTES AWAY BY BUS. WHY MAKE UMD THE WHIPPING BOY OR CAST REFLECTIONS ON THE UNIVERSITY?

I CONSIDER OLE HAUGERUD AS DULUTH'S OUTSTANDING NUMBER ONE SPORTSMAN. AFTER STUDYING OUR SITUATION CAREFULLY, I HAVEN'T SEEN OLE IN PRINT ANY PLACE CRITICIZING US FOR THE FACT THAT WE REALLY HAD NOTHING TO OFFER. I THINK THE VIKINGS MUST HAVE A SPLENDID SET-UP WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN BEMIDJI, AND APPARENTLY THE EDUCATION OF NO BOY OR GIRL IS DISTURBED. NEW DORMITORIES, WITH EXTRA SPACE AVAILABLE,--BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY,--IT SOUNDS IDEAL TO ME.

WHILE IT IS CLEAR THAT THE THREE OF US HERE TODAY REPRESENTING THE UNIVERSITY CAN ONLY REPEAT THE NEGATIVE ANSWER WE GAVE TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE DOWNTOWN QUARTER BACK CLUB A YEAR AGO ABOUT THE USE OF UMD FACILITIES FOR COMMERCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SPORTS, NEVERTHELESS THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT GROUP AND AN EXCEEDINGLY REPRESENTATIVE CIVIC GROUP TRYING TO OVERCOME NEGATIVE THINKING IN DULUTH AND WE COMMEND YOUR EFFORTS AND SUPPORT YOU, THAT IS WHY WE AGREED YOU WERE ENTITLED TO REQUEST--EVEN ORDER--OUR APPEARANCE. IF IT WEREN'T FOR WHAT YOU STAND FOR, AND OUR DESIRE TO MAKE OUR POSITION CLEAR TO YOU, ANY MORE MEETINGS DESIGNED TO CHANGE BASIC POLICIES WOULD BE USELESS. BUT IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE FOR DR. DARLAND AND ME TO BRING STAN WENBERG HERE.

IN CONCLUSION, LET ME URGE YOU, AND YOU TO URGE EVERY CITIZEN IN DULUTH, TO TAKE ANOTHER GOOD LOOK AT WHAT YOU HAVE IN UMD. FROM A COW PASTURE IN 1947 TO A MAGNIFICENT GROUP OF BUILDINGS READY FOR 3,000 STUDENTS NEXT FALL (UP FROM THE LOW WHEN WAR II BEGAN OF 296 STUDENTS AT THE OLD DULUTH STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE); AN INVESTMENT AND NEW APPROPRIATIONS OF NEARLY \$11,000,000; A 200-ACRE CAMPUS ON

ONE OF THE FINEST SITES IN AMERICA. TODAY IT IS ONE OF DULUTH'S LARGEST INDUSTRIES; OVER 300 EMPLOYED WITH A \$2,000,000 PAYROLL; A PROBABLE EXPENDITURE IN DULUTH BY UMD STUDENTS OF ABOUT \$2,000,000 ANNUALLY, TO SAY NOTHING ABOUT THE TREMENDOUS SAVINGS TO THOSE LIVING AT HOME; EXPENDITURES IN DULUTH FOR SUPPLIES FOR UMD OF APPROXIMATELY \$1,000,000; EXPENDITURES TO DULUTH CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IN RECENT YEARS OF MANY MORE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. I COULD GO ON INDEFINITELY ABOUT THE STATURE IT HAS GIVEN DULUTH AS AN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTER, THE NOTED PEOPLE AND HUNDREDS OF GUESTS IT BRINGS YEARLY, THE SMALL AND LARGE CONVOCATIONS, SUPPORT OF PRIVATE DONORS IT HAS ATTRACTED, THE STEADY STREAM OF ATHLETIC EVENTS THAT ENTERTAINS THOUSANDS OF OUR CITIZENS FROM YEAR TO YEAR, ALL UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF DR. DARLAND. INCIDENTALLY, IT WAS DR. DARLAND WHO RECRUITED COACH NORM OLSON, COACH JIM MALOSKY, AND COACH RALPH ROMANO, WHO HAVE GIVEN US CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS.

FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE, WHAT HAVE ANY CRITICS GOT TO CRY ABOUT? FIFTY FOOTBALL PLAYERS, A GAME A YEAR BY THE HARLEM GLOBE TROTTERS AND A FEW OTHER MINOR EVENTS, FADE INTO INSIGNIFICANCE BESIDE SUCH A MAGNIFICENT PICTURE. ALL IN THE SHORT, VERY SHORT, SPAN OF 14 YEARS. AND THE END IS NOWHERES IN SIGHT, PROBABLY 1,500 MORE STUDENTS TO COME,--POSSIBLE BY 1970. AND DON'T TELL ME OR DR. DARLAND THAT IT DIDN'T TAKE "BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS" TO ACCOMPLISH.

NOW, AS TO ATHLETIC ENTERTAINMENT,--IN OUR CLASS WE'VE WON EVERY MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP IN FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL AND HOCKEY, BEGINNING FROM ALMOST SCRATCH. WHAT WE NEED AT UMD IS NOT PROFESSIONAL SPORTS OF ANY KIND, BUT DOUBLE THE ATTENDANCE FOR EVERY AMATEUR SPORTING EVENT PUT ON. THERE'S A REAL CHALLENGE FOR SPORTS FANS,--BIGGER AND BETTER ATTENDANCE. MAYBE THEN WE COULD ENTHUSE SOME BENEFACTOR LIKE MR. KIRBY TO GIVE US THE \$180,000 NEEDED TO START A STADIUM. WE SURE NEED IT AND IT'S THE ONLY EARLY WAY I CAN SEE OF GETTING IT.

YOU'VE HEARD THE STORY. WITH THE BACKING OF THE UNIVERSITY, UNDERSTANDING LEGISLATORS OF THE 8TH DISTRICT, THE FRIENDSHIP AND INTEREST OF THE ENTIRE

LEGISLATURE, AND OUR POLITICAL LEADERS OVER THE YEARS (AND I THINK THE GOOD LORD MUST HAVE HAD A HAND IN IT), WHAT WE HAVE TODAY AT UMD SEEMS TO ME MORE OF A MIRACLE AND A DREAM THAN JUST A REALITY. WE WANT NO FRICTION DEVELOPED WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY FAMILY. WE WANT NO "CLEAN BREAKS" IN ANY DEPARTMENT, AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED. THAT WOULD REALLY BE A TRAGEDY. AND SO, TO THAT END, WE SEEK YOUR HELP AND STAMP OF APPROVAL IN SUPPORTING WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE THE UNIVERSITY'S AND UMD'S VERY WISE POLICIES.

March 13, 1962

R. L. GRIGGS, UNIVERSITY REGENT

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