

I am happy to report a sharp decrease in what I have termed the small, uneconomic course of six students or under. During the past session many departments reviewed their curricula and eliminated the highly specialized type of course. Thus, although last semester there were 50 courses registering five students or under, there are now only 15 such courses. Not only has our instructional budget been improved through this step but the instruction itself has been improved since the size of the freshman and sophomore sections has been reduced in many cases from thirty to twenty-five and twenty.

The Negro Student Question

The College is vulnerable at several points in light of the Swanson decision. At R.P.I. it offers programs such as Social Work, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy which are not duplicated in the state either in white or colored institutions. At Williamsburg only the Law School is vulnerable. We had one application for admission to the bachelors' program during the summer from a Negro in Danville who wished to take the pre-law work. This student was referred to Virginia State College and nothing further came of it.

Meanwhile Dean Hibbs has received an application from two Negro women and one man for admission to the graduate program leading to the master's degree in Social Work. The women are qualified social workers; one is employed by the City of Richmond and the State, the other at an agency supported by the Richmond Community Chest. Dean Hibbs does not believe the male applicant to be a qualified person and has refused him admission. His lawyer has communicated with the Rector, the President

and Dean Hibbs. In addition, several Negroes have applied for admission to the University of Virginia's extension program that is given in the evening at the main building at R.P.I. These persons are teachers in the Richmond school system. At the present writing there are no sponsored applications for admission to the undergraduate departments or its divisions. I believe that all our departmental offerings are duplicated at Petersburg and that that institution will cooperate with us in dealing with such cases.

My suggestion in dealing with the graduate programs is that the College be authorized by the Board to seek the opinion of the Office of the Attorney General and to act in accordance with this opinion. I could then authorize Dean Hibbs to state to the press that R.P.I. would act in accordance with the opinion of the office of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth in dealing with educationally qualified applicants. I see no hope of any reversal of opinion in the Federal court in light of the many decisions that have been rendered in recent years. I am inclined to believe that such a policy would do less injury to R.P.I. and to the College as a whole than any other. It might even have the effect of placing us in a stronger position in dealing later on with the problem of admission to undergraduate courses.

Finances

The legislature in the last session wiped out the St. Helena C.I. Extension deficit of \$111,000 and the College in June applied its year-end surplus of \$35,000 to the remaining deficit. Our deficit from the post-war era now totals \$372,500. This is a first charge against our income in the years that lie ahead.