

so embarrassed by having him come to her house all the time
 for business. Well, he was the one who had got after her to
 do something about this Chinese collection because he obviously
 was trying to fix ^{up} her estate ~~up~~ and the idea was with all these
 objects going into an estate and having the evaluation of the
 estate go astronomical and so forth ~~by~~ it would be a big inheritance
 tax. ~~And~~ he felt that it was much better for her to give
 everything away ~~and to get rid of the collection~~ and to keep
 it in her possession until she died because that's what she
 wanted. It didn't matter afterwards, anyway. So she went
 to Harvard, and they said, "Well, we'll take this, this, this
 but not that," and Mr. Pickford said, "No. I don't advise
 you to do that. There selecting. You're left with all the
 rest of it." The Boston Museum was willing to take some ob-
 jects, but not all of it. By the time they got to us, you see,
 they realized the only way they were going to get rid of the
 collection was to give it away completely and without any
 strings, which we finally did arrange ~~but~~ Dr. Dozier was the
 one who got us into it, and of course, he arranged for her to
 come down here with her husband, ~~Mr. and Mrs. Pickford came.~~
~~And~~ they went over and saw where we had planned to put the
 collection, ~~over~~ in Barrett Hall. We were going to re-design
 the room and cases ~~and so forth~~ and fix it all up. Here
 again, I got involved with the color of the walls and every-
 thing else ~~and~~ ^{With} all this ^{bright} colorful Oriental stuff we ~~designed~~
~~the room and~~ toned down all the architectural features by

painting everything tones of gray ~~and~~ then we took a rug
 that had been given the college by one of the Blow family
 and (this was a rug that had been made on one of the Medi-
 terranean islands and it was goat hair -- horrible thing,
 but very colorful) ~~and~~ we put it in there ~~and Miss Wynne~~
 Roberts ~~well~~, it didn't fit. It needed about ~~that much~~ ^{a foot}
 cut off each side, and so what else to do? We couldn't use
 it anywhere else, so this tremendous rug was cut all along
 the edge, and ~~its~~ ^{the pieces} presumably ~~are~~ ^{are} in the top of Barrett ~~are~~
~~the other pieces of it~~. Anyway, the rug is now disinte-
 grated. ~~It's goat hair and it was made on the island of~~
~~Majorca.~~ Well, Mrs. Chatfield Taylor was the one who
 gave it to us, and like all of these people who give things
 like that, they don't realize what they're giving, and I
 think there've been at various time^s ^{repercussions} as to
 where that poor rug ended up. It was in the Brafferton
 for a long time. ^{Anyhow,} So we took Mrs. Pickford back to the
 president's house and said good night, and then she went
 back to Boston. (She lived in an apartment in Brookline).
 President Pomfret called on her once and said that when
 he walked through her apartment, it was a matter of finding
 his way between objects, all over the floor, all over the
 place. And so when she died the whole collection came down
 here in a fifty-foot van, completely filled with barrels
 and boxes and so forth, and we put them in the president's
 house ^{office} -- I suppose it's the office right next to the

president's house, a larger building -- and that ^{was} filled ^{it}
~~that entire room, the collection did and~~ then we had to find
 out what we had. Andrew Haig, a professor of music, ~~he~~
 had a friend ~~who~~ he'd gone to school with in Michigan who
 was the director of the Freer Gallery in Washington. The
 Freer Gallery by ~~and~~ ^{large} is the only real Oriental
 gallery in this country; ~~you know, completely Oriental~~
~~gallery in this country~~ except for what they've got from
 some of the other Freer collections such as the Peacock
 Room ^{and} at Whistler, but their specialty is Chinese and
 Japanese things. ~~And~~ ^{so} we got in touch with him, and he
 came down and went through the whole ~~thing~~ with us, and he
 told us what to keep and what we could do anything we wanted
 to with. And we made some mistakes. ~~There's~~ no doubt about
 it. We didn't have any place to store it. We should have
 stored the stuff and really been more careful, but we didn't.
 We had to get rid of it; we had to clean out that room. So, ^{for}
 we turned over probably 60 percent of the collection to
 Billy Bozarth, the auctioneer, who began selling it ~~and he~~
~~began selling it~~ for practically nothing, and all over ^{town} ~~time~~,
 I imagine, are pieces ^{from} in that collection. I've got a couple
 of pieces of it I bought -- a little statue ^{\$5} for ~~five dol-~~
~~lars~~, you know, some of these things, ~~and~~ ^{so} that's where
 it went. ^{The} selected pieces were taken over and put in
 the room that was designed in Barrett. ~~We had~~ ^{The} college archi-
 tect, Mr. Major, drew up the plans for the cases. The

cases were made in Richmond, ~~and so forth and~~ at the end of the room on a special pedestal was the Huan Yin, the ~~maid~~ ^{made of cedar,} ~~of~~ which took an awful beating from the students because they very soon found out they could stick pennies into the cracks, and they began to damage the poor thing. It's terrible what they did. ~~Good luck pennies and that sort of thing.~~ We stored a lot of things, and then ~~some of the deans~~ ~~well, for instance, the dean of women or the assistant dean of women,~~ ~~they had an office over there and~~ some of the things ended up in their office, and things began to move around and so forth. Then finally ~~the girls themselves~~ demanded that the whole damn thing be taken out ~~for~~ they wanted that room for entertaining and study, and I don't blame them. It was a rather dark and dingy room. We got a special sort of Chinese lamps, and the tables were painted black to go with Chinese things ~~they could have been bright red or black but~~ (they were old college tables that were simply painted, that's all), and ~~then~~ we had runners on them ~~and so forth but anyway,~~ we had moved into the new building when this fiat came down, "Move," and so everything was taken over to the fine arts building and chucked into our storage room, except for a few pieces that were hither and yon. The big screen was in the president's house and ~~a few pieces~~ ^{MOVE TO P. 57*} like that were all over the place, but that's the way we got the Chinese collection. ~~When Mrs. Pickford died, you see, the whole collection came down here without any evaluation or any~~

~~thing. It had all ready been given, you see, and she had~~
~~just kept it in her apartment, so to speak, for her lifetime~~
~~which was evidently legal.~~ And now it's over in the art
 department with certain selective^{ed} items taken over to the

stat here → ~~president's house.~~ The most expensive items, such as the
 two pink quartz ^{figures,} are over in his house. Now one of these
 was valued at the time that Mrs. Pickford bought it years
 ago for some \$6,000, so I don't know what the valuation of
 that is. Actually, the other, which doesn't have as high a
 valuation, most experts say ^{is} it's ~~actually~~ a better piece,
 so that may mean it's more valuable. * The costumes that she
 bought -- and she had nearly ^{a hundred} 100 costumes -- we finally
~~in desperation~~ turned over to the theater and ~~the~~
~~theater.~~ I don't know what they've done with ^{them} ~~it~~ ~~we~~
 They want the room, and they're not too keen on keeping them.
 So, here you are, you see, -- room and storage space ~~and~~
~~so forth~~ and these things. Last year we had a brief exhi-
 bition of some of the objects over in the college library.

Williams: ~~This~~ you may feel free to say you'd rather not speak
 about -- but I know that you were good friends with the
 Pomfrets and I wondered what Dr. Pomfret's feeling was --
 he has not spoken about the problems that led to his resigna-
 tion -- ^{were} what his feelings toward the college ~~was~~ afterwards?

Thorne: I don't know what his feelings toward the college are, but I
 can tell you this -- I don't think ~~we~~ you see, it's pretty

hard to say. We had a coach called Barney Wilson, who was
 coach of basketball. Barney was a very smart character,
 intelligent, and then we had a coach who was also director of
 athletics, Rube McCray. Rube was not ^{so} smart. He was a good
 coach; He got along with the boys very well by ^{and} ^{large} ~~and~~
~~and~~ he didn't smoke; he didn't drink; he'd swear at the
 boys once ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ awhile, something like that. But, I don't
~~think~~, the reason that Pomfret left here, you see, is a
 very ~~peculiar~~ situation. ~~I think what happened was that~~
~~Barney Wilson figured out a way to get at these things and~~
~~I don't know whether the regulation was in operation then or~~
~~not~~, but there're some very peculiar things about this busi-
 ness. ~~How~~ in the first place the athletic department got
 hold of ~~these~~ transcripts from the high schools? Usually, the
 transcripts is sent direct ^{ly} to the dean of admissions. Now ~~the~~
 the dean of admissions, as you know, at that time was Dean
 Lambert. Now, ~~I don't think~~ (this is just a personal thing)
~~and~~ I think that one might ^{question} Dean Lambert ^{ac} ~~excepting~~ these records
 from the physical ed. department. Now there's another thing. ^{he was}
~~You have~~ not only dean of admissions, but I think he was also
 registrar then, you see. It's all balled up. ~~And~~ he had
 taken over because Miss Alsop had suddenly been taken to the
 hospital (she'd just gone off her rocker), and I think there's
 a lot of balled up mess here, you see. Then you had a dean [Nelson Marshall]
 who was riding a moral white horse and didn't have too much
 common sense. You have poor ~~old~~ Rube, who isn't too bright, and

then you get Vandeweghe in the picture, you see. I think
 Barney suggested, I think, to Rube that since he had fired
 Vandeweghe -- Vandeweghe was really a skunk. He treated his
 wife terrible; he was running off with other women and that
 sort of thing. But Vandeweghe really didn't have anything to
 do with this. [athletic scandals] Vandeweghe was down at Fort Eustis as special
 officer in charge of some athletic programs, and they tried to
 put the blame on him. Well, it didn't work. It backfired and
 the next thing you know, Barney Wilson is fired, and Rube
 McCray gets into a hassle with Vandeweghe -- calls him all
 sorts of names and Vandeweghe calls him all sorts of names.
 And then Vandeweghe goes to the press. So this whole thing
 was above and beyond Pomfret's control. I think the minute
 he found out anything was crooked he ^{should} ~~would~~ have fired the
 men and so forth. (Also, you must remember that he had ^{already} ~~ready~~
~~ready~~ resigned so to speak. He hadn't announced his resigna-
 tion, ^[but] He'd ^{already} accepted the job out in California be-
 cause he had been mistreated by the board. ^{winners} He said he would
 never go back to that board again, and he ~~told his wife, he~~
 told all of us, he said, "one shouldn't have to stand that."
~~and he said I'm not going to be here and so he was ready to do it.~~
 and once this mess was created he sent his resignation to them [the Huntington
 Library] saying, "I'll withdraw if you wish me to," and they said, "No,
 we're going to investigate" and they came and investigated and
~~they investigated~~ what he had done in all this mess, and they
 said, "You're clean as far as we're concerned. Come on out."

So that's how he left. So it was a very unfortunate thing. Also, ~~people~~ the last night they were here ~~we~~ all were over at his house, and there was Johnny Hocutt and Jimmy Fowler and ^{among} ~~some~~ others, Vernon Geddy, and they were telling Jack all about this manipulation and all these scandals about the building of the lodges and so forth -- other scandals, ~~I don't whether it was the building of the lodges or something else but anyway~~ he said, "Now look, not one of you ever told me a thing about this. You seem to know a lot about this. I can't fire people or I can't get rid of people or I can't do a thing without facts. You assume that I know; I don't." This upset him a great deal because here ~~were~~ ~~are~~ these people that assumed he was letting these things slide, but he didn't know. Of course, Charlie Duke was involved with a lot of this stuff, and Charlie was ~~--- he~~ had sold Pomfret on backing the athletic program. I can hear him now, "Boss, let's go ^{out} up and see the boys play." And Pomfret said, "I don't want to go out there." So it was a very peculiar thing. ~~So~~ I think he felt hurt (and I think rightly so) because some of his best friends here -- I got into an argument one night down in a private house (and I don't want to mention the names) ~~to~~ but I got so mad I almost hit someone because the way they were sniping at him behind his back ~~and~~ yet some of these very people who were sniping at him later were the ones that went over there and drooled about him when he was leaving. It was terrible (because he

He didn't do things the way they would have done it, or ~~because~~
 they knew things he didn't know ~~but on the other hand you~~
~~couldn't get at him.~~ So I don't think Pomfret ~~ever~~ really
 left here with a very nice taste in his mouth. You see, the
 board more-or-less didn't tell him the truth in the first
 place. The Board of Visitors had elected him, yes. When
 he asked ~~whether~~ ^I have been elected unanimously, they
 said "yes." Well, that wasn't quite true. There had been a
 complete split on the board, and I can't remember, I think
 it was seven and seven and Lancaster ~~was the odd man and~~
 (superintendent of public instruction) ~~and~~ he had an ex-officio
 vote), ~~and he~~ was the one that threw it to Pomfret. They
 evidently fought a long time before this situation developed;
~~and~~ it was actually deadlocked, and they realized that
 neither man could really win, so that was how that hap-
 pened. And then, of course, they told the person on the
 telephone -- ~~the rector~~ I think Gordon Bohannon was the
 rector -- to say "You've been elected unanimously" which
 you know, I suppose ~~legally~~ is correct, but it meant that
 he came into office in 1942 with a split board, and he didn't
 know it.

Williams: He didn't know it until --

Thorne: I don't think anything really happened until ^{after} Gordon Bohannon
 had died. You see, the minute ¹ after Gordon Bohannon died then
 you began to run up against a board that had a rector that was
 of the opposite faction. It was terrible. The lies that were

committed in all this, too, ^{were incredible.} ~~was terrible.~~ Now, the elction
 of Pomfret -- there was a committee of the ^{faculty} ~~board~~ which met
 with the ^{board's} ~~faculty~~ and Dr. Morton was one of the older members
 of the faculty, he met with Channing Hall, who was mayor of
 the town who was also on the Board of Visitors. Later, when
 they elected Chandler I went to Channing, and I said, "Channing,
 isn't it true that there was a faculty committee that worked
 with you?" He said, "Yes." And I said, "Why do you keep
 quiet? Why do you let things go on like this?" Well, it's
 all water under the bridge. When Admiral Chardler ^{was} ~~made~~
 the chancellor there was again politicking going on. Virginia
 politics is really a peculiar operation. I was in Richmond
 and had a meeting with Colonel Fitzroy of the Richmond Area
 University Center, and afterwards we were talking on the side-
 walk as I left, and he said, "What's going on down at William
 and Mary?" And I said, "I don't know. What do you mean?" He
 said, "They've just made Admiral Chandler the chancellor. I
 think the Virginia politicians are like the Chinese -- they're
 setting him up for a kill." And this is our trouble; this has
 been our trouble. All of the boards up until recently have
 been more or less dominated by Virginians and a great many of
 them are not even alumni of the college, and so you get into
 all sorts of shenanigans. For instance, Shewmake was rector
 of the board. You never quite figured ^{out} whether Shewmake was a
 friend of the college or whether he was an enemy of the col-
 lege; you couldn't quite make it out. And going back, you have

to remember that he was more or less embarrassed here when he was on the law faculty. He and his wife divorced, and it was quite a little ^c sandal then ~~and~~ you can't tell quite what's happening with these people. ~~And~~ why should a rector of a board send, for instance, Lockert Bemis down here as sort of a spy without going through the proper channel of the president, [?] you see. And so you have a lot of these peculiar things going on. ~~Some members of the board have~~ according to hearsay (and I think it's true) ~~Some members of the board have~~ operated very closely sometimes with the athletic program without going through channels. And, of course, now this is changing slowly for the good. We now have members of our board ^{who} are not Virginians or not living in Virginia. You've broadened the base of the board, which I think is all to the good ~~and~~ I think so-called Virginia politics is still there, but not quite as rampant as it was. What else?

Williams: How would you assess Charlie Duke's role? He's an enigmatic character to me. He's spanned several administrations and yet --

Thorne: Charlie was a dreamer -- a dreamer, ^{and} a congenital liar. I mean he would lie -- and I don't think he believed he was lying. For instance, he looked off into space when I was chairman of the dance committee and we were figuring up for the June ball, ~~He looked off into space~~ and he said, "It costs the college \$5,000 to put on the June ball." And I went [#] into see Vernon Nunn, who was the auditor, and I said, "Vernon, is this true?"

And Vernon smiled, "No". So he gave me a figure, ~~of about~~
 figuring all the things out, ~~of~~ of less than \$2,000. So you
 get that sort of think^g going. And then Charlie would do fun-
 ny things which were not very reasonable. Well, ~~for instance,~~
 they were building an addition onto Blow Gym, and there was a
 tool house ~~all right~~. The tool house, let's say, was probably
 worth ^{\$25} ~~twenty-five dollars~~, little wooden construction. The
 contractor wasn't particularly interested in carting it away,
 so Charlie made ^a ploy and he ends up ^{owning} holding the tool house.
 I don't think any money actually changed hands, but you never
 can tell. The next thing we know^e it was down ~~as a beach house~~
 at his beach house, you see. That was during Mr. Bryan's
 administration. ~~Mr. Bryan had allowed Charlie to be~~ he
 and Virginia ^{ran} were ~~in~~ the president's house for awhile until
 they ~~brought in the nephew~~, Tom Pinckney, ~~the nephew of Mr.~~
 Bryan, and Charlotte came down, and they began running the
 house for him, you see, ~~because~~ Mr. Bryan's wife was in
 Westbrook and ~~(she was cured the minute he died, which you can~~
 make ~~out~~ what you want to out of ~~it~~. Anyway, it was very
 strange -- the whole thing. But Charlie thought nothing of ^{manipulating} ~~it~~
 and of course, everybody saw it. He told ^{us} ~~it~~ what it was. But
 then, ~~of course~~ when Pomfret became president and the fra-
 ternity lodges were under construction ~~(they were out there~~
 making these colored cement blocks for their patios, and the
 next thing we knew ^{one} Saturday morning here was a college truck
 with Jack Saunders and a whole bunch of these cement blocks down

at Charlie Duke's beach house. They arrived Saturday morning, and the Pomfrets had arrived Friday night and ^{so} saw them. Pomfret made him pay three hundred and some odd dollars for those things, but here again ~~ye~~ had college labor down there, and he had the college truck, and he had these college blocks. So ~~it's~~ it's awfully hard to say just what -- I can't believe that Charlie really, ~~you know~~ ^{he} was a bigtime crook; he wasn't. Now ~~he~~ got onto the Board of Visitors to take his father's place, you see. Somewhere along the line he became very friendly with Governor Tuck. Governor Tuck pulled him away from the college and took him up to Richmond to let him sort of reorganize the state business arrangements and so forth, which I guess he did a good job on. One reason he became a member of the Board of Visitors was when Mr. Bryan became president, temporarily as he suggested, he said, "I can't do it without ~~let me have~~ Charlie Duke," you see.

Williams: Temporarily was Charlie Duke's suggestion or Mr. Bryan's?

Thorne: No, Mr. Bryan. No, no, Mr. Bryan would be temporary president until they could find somebody, and Charlie had to be there to assist him. Well, of course, it meant when Mr. Bryan was away Charlie ran all the physical arrangements of the college, and all of the educational benefits and so forth of the college were controlled by ² Caball -- Jim Miller, Charles Harrison, Murray Borish -- I can't remember all the other names involved. Jimmy Fowler was on the fringes. They ran the college -- the physical plant by Charlie, the mental branch by these boys -- and

some people even said, "Who's the head of the English department, Charles Harrison or Jess Jackson?" Charles was a wonderful character, very set in his opinions, very high standards, tremendously high standards. He got involved with Pomfret in regard to the athletic program, and in a tremendous huff he resigned and went down and got himself a job at Sewanee because he felt that Pomfret was becoming soft on athletics and so forth. I think that the whole Pomfret story is quite baffling. There are so many things. (I think his embarrassment is shown in ^{this} a way. He's a very private person, and he didn't even like to have his portrait painted, but they insisted and Mrs. Guy was the one who raised the money for that. She went around getting all of us to give money for it and then had it done out there on the west coast.) But it's very difficult to realize that Pomfret's office and Charlie's office were right next to each other. They saw each other every day, and often times Charlie would talk to Pomfret and as I say, take him out to the playing fields, introduce him to some of the boys, and then slowly pressure him, you see. Always a little bit of pressure there to do things the way Charlie wanted him to do. I was involved in one of these damn things, and it was really funny. I don't know whose idea it was, but old Yel Kent had been running the dining hall under a very peculiar set-up which I think is still peculiar because this is the way the state runs today. At the end of every biennium you have to balance your books. Anything,

that's left over goes to Richmond, ~~goes back~~ into the general fund. Well, the result is that in the last three months of a biennium everything is wacky, just as wacky as it can be.

Well, imagine what would happen if you were trying to run a food operation where your biennium came up every year. Well, this is what they did with Kent. Kent, first of all ~~remember~~, didn't ever want to get into the food business; he wanted to be an aviator, and he 'd been helping with a little aviation school out here at the college airport, ~~and~~ then President [J. A. C.] Chandler needed somebody to run the dining hall, and he called in Yel, ~~in~~ who had done all these different nice things for him, (both his family and himself, and Yel ^{had} lived in the president's house), So Yel couldn't refuse. Here again, the pressure put on Yel -- he is not the sort of person that says no and backs away from something like that. He's inclined to go along with somebody rather than oppose them, so he threw his own ambitions out the window and became a manager of an eating establishment. Well, he had good cooks, and ~~he had~~, presumably, ~~not too big an operation going and so~~ when I came here in 1940 he was running what I would consider, I suppose, a fairly good dining hall. Certainly, when we had Homecoming in the fall -- we'd go out in the woods, and he would serve oysters on big grills and all of Brunswick stew -- well, ~~he had chicken in it~~, beautiful, it was delicious -- and it was just wonderful out there in the woods and all this nice food ~~and what he would do~~ he would try to balance things out, and of course, at the end of

the year ~~if~~ he made money ~~it~~ went into the general fund. But if he didn't make money ~~they~~ gave him the devil. Finally ~~somebody~~ thought up the idea ~~the~~ the best way to do this operation was to take the big room in Trinkle Hall and put in a cafeteria and I think that was the first operation. Well, here were these big bon ^whunks, husky, male students with an appetite that would chew off an arm or an leg. They would come down the line, and they'd begin eating all this stuff, and when it was punched out on the register it was \$2.75. Well, they'd been eating ~~in the old set up, you see~~ a great deal of food (a lot of filler in it and so forth) ^{in the old setup,} and the cost was about \$1.00 for the meal. Well, ~~the parents~~ you can imagine the parents writing in and saying, "All our kids are running out of money; this damned cafeteria must go." Well, I was called in, and here was Pomfret tearing his hair with all these letters about the food operation, and here was Charlie Duke saying, "Boss [he called him Boss], let me handle it. I know the answer to all this." Here he was, dreaming up in his grandiose [?] assistance. So, one of the reasons the kids were running into difficulty ^[was] there was no menu, and you had no idea of the cost, say, of a ~~fried chicken or~~ half a fried chicken and the cost of your vegetables and so forth and your dessert; ~~So,~~ they had no menu boards. I don't know who thought this whole operation up. Did you find that out in your things, whether Charlie Duke thought it up or what?

Williams: I know that he was working with the dining hall problems, yes.

Thorne: Well, evidently ~~he~~ he thought this would solve some of the dining hall problems, but anyway ~~the~~ the next thing that happened, of course, is I said, "I can make some menu boards, but it'll have to be on ply wood." It was wartime and I said, "Over at the department I have one piece of 4" ^X by 8" ^{3/4} ^{inch} plywood that belongs to ^{the} William and Mary theater, but you'll have to replace it. I know where there's some quarter ^{-inch} plywood out there under the stadium." Charlie said, "Okay, we'll do it; we'll do it." So I went down to the hardware store and bought the special black paint with grit in it for black boards, and I gave a couple coats to two 4' ^X by 4' sections, painted the menu up on top with some white lines, you know, for everything, and then they were able to chalk on there, you see, their menus. Well, of course, I forgot the operation then because that was Yel's problem over there, but then my problem was in getting the quarter-inch plywood. So I went out ~~to get~~ ~~it~~ to see where it was, and I went out there and sure enough, there it was, so I came back in and asked Charlie Duke, "I want three sheets of that quarter-inch plywood to make up for my one big sheet of three-quarter inch plywood." (Actually, the college quarter-inch plywood should have been four sheets.) ~~but~~ ^{wanted} I ^{alloted} that for the theater. He said, "You'll have to see Jack Saunders." I saw Jack Saunders about a day afterwards, "Oh," he said, "that plywood. Somebody stole the plywood." So I began checking around, and I finally got a man on the force but

he wouldn't stick his neck out because he knew he'd lose his job because he was under Charlie Duke. He said, "Jack Saunders has just panelled his basement with plywood." We never saw the plywood. Here again, what could I do? How could I prove it? To prove what was happening I would have to get this poor man down in the plant department to go with me to the president, and here was Charlie Duke protecting Jack Saunders. Jack Saunders was letting it be known that if he ~~Charlie Duke went down the drain, he would go down the drain, too. I mean that if Saunders went down the drain, he'd~~ pull Charlie Duke with him -- which he did, incidentally.

Williams: Yes, that was what I was going to ask because they all got balled up together.

Thorne: So when Lockert Bemiss came, I went to him, and I said to ~~him~~, "Look, I know about these things about Jack Saunders ^{and the} ~~fraternity lodges,~~ and I know about this quarter-inch plywood. — I know about a lot of these. What are you going to do?" "Oh, we don't want Jack Saunders; we want Charlie Duke." I said, "Who are 'we'?" He said, "the board." ~~So it became~~ ~~was~~ obvious because then a press reporter, Lloyd Williams, got ^{interested in} ~~after~~ the lodges and began asking very pertinent questions: How come the same A-frames and the same size buildings and the same bricks and all this sort of thing were down on Washington Street? Well then, Lockert had to do something, so he called in Jack Saunders and began to ask him questions, and Jack said, "Well, I got the property from my mother," and

etcetera and etcetera. Meantime, some college pigs out in the college woods --one of them died and Miss Blank was out in the college woods looking for plant material and Miss Blank from the biology department saw a dead pig out there and they took a culture and the pig had cholera. Well, then it's a very peculiar thing. Jack Saunders had some pigs running with the college pigs; all his pigs survived but they had to burn and kill all the college pigs. You see, at those times you have to remember, we still had a small farm out in what would be the college woods. They were growing vegetables for the college and all sorts of funny things went on and so Jack Saunders told Bemiss this whole story about his property. Well, then, Lloyd Williams went down to the ^{court} club house and proved that neither his mother or his father had any estate when they died; that he had bought these ^{e of land} pieces himself. So Lockert brought in Jack Saunders and fired him for lying. Very ^{strange} funny thing. So Saunders pulled out and went up to Fredericksburg and put \$75,000 or \$85,000 down on a motor court. ~~is a real~~

court

~~weird~~ Stories were going around that trucks were backed up to the college warehouses and things were put on the truck and carted away. All sorts of stories. ~~I think~~ Saunders for instance, when they were building the college lodges -- this is one thing I saw -- here was a load of material being ^{unloaded?} landed, and Mr. Tyson, the foreman was there, and I said to Mr. Tyson, "Gee, where are they going to put that

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handsome cabinet, that mahogany cabinet that's coming off?"

"Oh, that's not for the college, that's for Mr. Saunders."

And I said, "Gee, that's a pretty nice cabinet. How did that come along with this order?" "Oh," he said, "Mr. Saunders ordered it." So I saw Jack Saunders the same day, and I said, "Jack, that cabinet you ordered, that gun cabinet, that beautiful mahogany cabinet, why in the devil did you put black rat-tailed hinges on it? It should have nice brass hinges with mahogany." "Oh," he said, "I can't look a gift horse in the face. That's a gift." Well, he was getting kickbacks from the lumber company evidently. We don't know. It's all so hazy, but I did see that cabinet, and it was delivered on a lumber truck to the college property. Later I asked about the band saw, the circular saw, ~~these were machines that were on there~~ that they were using for ~~I~~ I understand they ended up on the Rapahannock. You see, I was interested in it for the fine arts department ~~to~~ to replace our ~~old material, our~~ old band saw and ~~so forth~~ that Al Haak was using for theater stuff.

Williams: And then when Lloyd Williams' articles -- I've read Lloyd Williams' articles -- when they started coming out, there was a big investigation.

Thorne: There was a big investigation which more or less white-washed everything, but obviously something was wrong. The same design was used at the University of Richmond, and the cost up there

~~at the University of Richmond~~ was between \$18,000 and \$19,000)
and everyone of them at William and Mary cost \$24,000 or
\$25,000. There was something wrong. It's awfully hard to
say.

Williams: Well, one of things I wondered as you were talking? ~~I was~~
~~going to ask~~ why Dr. Pomfret didn't get rid of Charlie Duke?
Was it that he didn't think he could have the support of the
board? But from what you said about Lockert Bemiss -- that
doesn't hold water.

Thorne: Wait a minute. I think the board was more interested in get-
ting rid of Pomfret first and then Charlie. I think they were
out for both of them.

Williams: Because I have heard it said the board maneuvered Pomfret out.

Thorne: Yes, they did. ~~They tried to~~ You see, ^{after} he went to a December
meeting, ~~and~~ ^{planning} he was ~~forced~~ to resign ~~and~~ and resigned anyway ~~by~~
the next spring. He came back from that meeting, and he told
several people -- and I was one of them -- he said, "I will
never go before that board again." ~~And, you know, as I say~~
^{with} ~~this~~ Rube McCray ^{thoroughly} it's like a psychologist examining ~~thoroughly~~
a person and saying "well, this person is incapable of doing
this; ^{id} just won't do a thing like that." And that's the way all
of us felt about Rube. Some of the things that were done, he
just couldn't have figured out. And remember, there were
board members involved around this time, too, you know. We
got into rather big-time football then. ~~And~~ of course, the
college didn't have a lot of money. How do you do things like

this? I don't know.

Williams: And these board members are all gone, too.

Thorne: Well, yes. It's awfully hard to figure out. ~~Course the main~~ ^[politicians] ~~problem was that you had these~~ -- the chairman of the Compensation Commission in Richmond, Coombs, his brother was president of Mary Washington. He wanted to be president of William and Mary. Now Coombs had charge of all the outlays of money, you see, and he was a big wheel in Virginia politics without actually ever being up front; he was behind the scenes. Coombs came down here, and his wife measured the president's house for new draperies. This was after Bryan's resignation.

Williams: I was going to say this was before Pomfret came in.

Thorne: So they evidently felt they had enough backing to do all these things, you see. Well, when word got out that Coombs was one of the people being considered, evidently a great opposition to him developed, not only among the faculty here the faculty here heard about it and they were very much upset because Coombs was evidently considered not the type of person that would bring any sort of good reputation to William and Mary. He was an operator, again. He had manipulated and had taken an old house up in Fredericksburg and made it into a mansion and ^{for himself} again, there was a fear among the faculty that it would be entirely political; everything was political, again, not educational but political, so there were a whole lot of things happening and ~~evidently~~ to go so far as to come and measure -- you see, there must have been the possibility that he would be elected. Then

as president

you see, the hardcore resistance developed, and that centered around Gordon Bohannon of Petersburg.

Williams: Was he particularly in favor of Pomfret or just anti-Coombs?

Thorne: Well, it's hard to say. I don't know, but anyway, he became a close friend of Pomfret, and as long as he was there, none of this opposition dared to raise their head or to make themselves too objectionable. But after he died then, evidently, the whole thing went ~~lost~~ wrong.

Williams: Knowing this behind-the-scenes helps to explain a great deal about what did go on and well, in this situation, for one.

Thorne: Well, you see, Pomfret, of course, knew nothing of these shenanigans that were going on up here, and unfortunately, ^{when} the board ~~when they~~ got in touch with him, none of this could be conveyed to him. His brother-in-law, Wise, who was the managing editor of the Richmond papers, told him to keep out of it. He said, "it's a red-hot political potato, and he said I would advise you not to accept." ~~He was warned by his brother-in-law and Wise, evidently, again, didn't want to put himself in the position of naming names.~~

Williams: Why then do you think he did go on into it?

Thorne: It was a challenge, of course. Here he was -- he had graduated from Pennsylvania, he became an instructor over at Princeton, became ^e I think he was ^{the} a dean of freshman ^e or something like that for awhile, ~~some sort of thing like that~~ and then eventually he ends ^{up} out at Vanderbilt with ¹ this responsible job ¹ and ¹ Carmichael, who was the chancellor of Vanderbilt -- see, down there

they don't have a president, I think they have a chancellor
 -- and Carmichael, who was a great friend of Pomfret's, said,
 "Well, this is a bigger challenge and so forth. Go ahead and
 take it." ~~Evidently -- because Carmichael probably didn't~~
~~know what -- well, I still --~~ Jack Pomfret, I would say, for
 about seven years ^{he} did a damn good job, and then the last two ^{years}
~~evidently, for him~~ was hell because of the board.

Williams: It's really amazing that he was able to work with them as
 long as he was.

Thorne: Well, as I say, I don't have the actual dates in front of me so
 I can't tell you exactly but ~~evidently~~ (I don't know when Gordon
 Bohannon died) but it seems to me Gordon Bohannon died just
 about at the end of the war.

Williams: I'm inclined to say about '45.

Thorne: '45, '46 and you see, the opposition then kept their stumps stirring,
 but they really didn't get after him -- there was nothing to get
 after him with, you see, at first, but then they began to get
 after him, ^{I think} and then they made the decision to try to get rid of
 him. ~~He had again?~~ I think that ~~you see~~ on the board there
 may have been some good people that more ~~or less~~ helped him
 out there, ~~and again~~ there may have been another change in the
 board around '48 or '49, you see, when the board really became
 dominated by Shewmake ^{and Company}. None of us ^{could} figure out why they said
 Chandler was good for us ~~you see~~. Did that mean that Chand-
 ler was to be a whipping master? We couldn't figure it out.
 Now Chandler didn't do a bad job. He had very sensitive skin

about the business, and I don't blame him. I wouldn't want to be in a position like his where a lot of people were saying things that weren't too complimentary, ~~But~~ he tried his best. He was a little bit like a bull in a china closet with the legislature, which you couldn't do. He got Al Haak to put together a movie showing how bad the buildings were at William and Mary and how much we needed all this backing, and it went over like a lead balloon; it just didn't work. It wasn't until he began to work with some of the legislative members alone that he began to get backing, and he had a hard time even getting backing for replacing ^{old} Phi Beta Kappa when it burned. But one of the things that put that across was the fact that John D. Rockefeller came up with a quarter of a million dollars as something to sweeten the kitty, and the state politicians, whatever their thinking, do not like to see \$250,000 go down the drain, and so that's one reason Phi Beta Kappa was built. There again, I have to give Chandler more credit than any of the other presidents or bursars in the administration; ~~he~~ he did not feel that he could design Phi Beta Kappa so he at least let us have Roger Sherman get in touch with Burris Meyers, the sound expert, Ed Coles, the theater expert, and I think several others, ~~and~~ ^{and} all these experts were involved in the design of that theater, and the result is ~~that~~ we still have a very good working small theater with an adequate scene shop, with arrangements so that scenes can go in and off very rapidly, a perfectly rea-

sonable and wonderful stage house. If you have any criticism of Phi Beta Kappa, ~~it's~~ ^{it's that it's} perhaps not large enough. On the other hand, you have to make some sort of a compromise. You either have a large hall which is unwieldy -- like William and Mary Hall can be unwieldy -- or you have an intimate theater and just run your plays an extra night or two, ~~and~~ the result is that every seat in the theater is good. So I still think he's to be complimented highly on the fact that he did that. We had Donald Openslager ~~down~~ (the scene designer, who's taught at Yale and also had a lot of stuff on Broadway) ^{to come down.} They went over the ~~plans~~ [#] very thoroughly, including ~~all of the~~ things such as the costume area -- everything about the theater. Now the thing that was least well designed, perhaps ~~it's~~ --- again I don't think the college had much to say about it -- and that was ~~where do you put~~ ^{location of the} the theater and speech rooms and ~~the cooling system~~ ^{the cooling system} ~~how do you get the air conditioning to them.~~ They've had trouble with their heating and air conditioning ever since the building was built; somehow the relays or something don't work ~~too~~ properly. But I blame this on the engineering company or firm -- I think ^{a guy} by the name of Brown -- who works for the architects. You see, the architects have ~~their~~ ~~engineers~~ ~~this~~ company, work for them, and they're terrible. They just don't engineer things properly. Now Phi Beta -- you can air condition most of the building fairly decently excepting up there in those speech rooms ^[in] and the radio area.

Williams: You were talking about the selection of Admiral Chandler and why Shewmake said he would be good for the college. Do you think that the board had had in mind selecting this ~~man~~?

Thorne: Well, some of the board -- certainly Shewmake -- remembered the Admiral's father and the Admiral's father had a reputation of running a very tight ship. He had complete control of the faculty. Half the faculty walked around on campus with their resignations in their pockets. Any two members of the faculty getting together were a conspiracy; this was the attitude that had developed and was still apparent when I came here in 1940. The AAUP was a secret society. The first Chandler said any one who was a member of that and he knew about it, ~~was~~ ^{was} they ~~were~~ automatically fired. I think that Shewmake had visions of ~~of~~ that Pomfret had been too casual and letting everybody (students, faculty) go on. You see, one of the things that got going -- I never could feel guilty -- was that some of the faculty had these meetings and we'd beat our breasts and say we were all guilty of not watching out for this athletic situation. Well, that was all ridiculous! Actually, none of us could have stepped in and done a thing about it. The athletic committee at that time was a laugh; it didn't do anything. It seldom made a report. The whole athletic program was operated out of Charlie Duke's office ^{director,} and with the athletic department. Extra monies were shifted from funds ~~and everything else~~ to do all sorts of things. And how could we find out about that and prove any of it? So ~~the thing was~~ the faculty got up in arms, you

know, and said this whole athletic program must go ~~and~~
~~all this sort of stuff and~~ I can remember a whole series of
 meetings over in Rogers, and frankly I think it was all
 a bunch of ^{boloney,} ~~bologna~~, but I think the faculty began to
 make demands of the board, and the board felt that they
 needed somebody to turn the screws. A lot of this is
 guesswork, but there's certainly some of that involved.

Williams: Well, I'm asking your opinion.

Thorne: I have a feeling that whether Shewmake realized it or not, since
 he left the faculty here in disgrace so to speak under the
 heel and toe of the old Mr. Chandler, ~~that~~ he was going to put
 the young Mr. Chandler on our necks and get two things done:
 get back at the faculty and also get back at the college. You
 see, ~~because~~ I don't think that Admiral Chandler had the back-
 ground or anything to prepare him, really, for doing the job.
 He had to work into the job, I would say ^{at} three or four years.
 He had the faculty laughing at him, which is a horrible thing
 to do ^{at} his first faculty meeting, in which he'd said he'd done
 his homework. You know, you can't do that. They couldn't help
 it. It sounded like a little boy who had been careless and
 suddenly awakened to the fact that he should do some work.
 That was really pathetic. Of course, ~~the reason for this was~~
~~that~~ he was coming in from a naval career ~~and here he was~~
~~ending up in a career and his only~~ -- and again he made the mistake
 of saying, "I have taught [a class in math or something up at
 the naval academy]"; therefore, he ^{was} ~~is~~ qualified as a teacher.

~~and so~~ that was sort of peculiar. The other thing was when they decided to ~~break up the colleges or to~~ change the administration and have the chancellor of the Colleges of William and Mary and bring in Paschall, ^[Chandler] there again there was tremendous friction in the administrative section, you see, and I've seen Paschall in tears ~~and~~ this generated a tremendous antagonism between the two men. I think, then, Paschall, who had built up a tremendous backlog of good will all over the state, ~~he~~ went to work ~~and~~ (this is what we were talking about in that "Chinese election") and he just simply -- it was just an undercutting operation. But now he and Chandler are good friends, which is very interesting because at one time there -- well, Chandler could feel but couldn't put his finger on what was happening ~~and~~ he felt like somebody had a sword in his back, but he couldn't find out who was pushing it or what was happening ~~and~~ of course, Paschall was not at that time (at first) really involved with it, I guess, but then, of course, ^{Chandler} he turned on Paschall and then was as nasty as all get-out. I don't know. ~~It's~~ all so involved. ~~And of course,~~ you knew that a lot of things were wrong because poor Mrs. Chandler was ~~simply~~ going nearly crazy with all this in-fighting going on -- ~~and~~ some of her friends seemed to look twice at her, and some of her friends weren't as friendly as they should be and all that sort of thing ~~and~~ then of course, the next thing that happened was Agnes Paschall comes into the picture, ~~and~~ she has the problem of her husband not wanting to delegate any authori-

I have a feeling you left out something about Mrs. Paschall.

ty, delegate anything. He was the type of guy that really worked himself into a dither. He would work all day in the office and make some trips or something, and then at night he would sit in his bed and make up longhand letters that were to be brought into his office the next morning to be typed. ~~And then~~ his secretaries, ~~who~~ could have answered a lot of the letters with almost a simple acknowledgment, ~~of these parents -- he sat and wrote long letters to the~~ parents. And of course, business often times got bogged down, but he worked like a dog and of course, ~~here again,~~ his family were the ones that suffered ~~so she was the one~~ that took the beating because he was working all the time -- weekends, he was in his office all the time. Now he more or less works under doctor's orders. ~~He's a consultant.~~ I saw her at the shopping center and he's working only three days a week, sometimes four days a week. (Discussion about Paschall's present employment.) ~~He's up in Richmond as a consultant with the, I guess, board of higher education and so forth.~~ Well, I guess the most interesting thing that he can tell you is how he became full president of the college, and I doubt if he ^{will} -- he's too politic. You'll have to get it from an angle. ~~It'll be angled in because I~~ don't think he's going to. I think that he feels that all of those old peculiar ^{built-in} antagonisms that were in the nature of the ~~beast~~ ¹ having a chancellor with his office at one end of the campus and the president with his office at

the other and overlapping jurisdictions --

It was an impossible situation because no one had defined, ^{it} you know, If they had defined that the chancellor was to take charge of Christopher Newport, the Norfolk division, R.P.I. and ~~so forth and~~ Richard Bland and run those and leave his subordinate more ~~or~~ less in control here would have been one thing and if he'd have had a Newport News office, ^{it} would have helped ^{it} and ~~all that sort of things~~. They didn't do it.

Williams: Your comment about the Chinese was an interesting one.

Thorne: Well, I didn't say that it was Colonel Fitzroy and Colonel Fitzroy was a jolly guy and he sort of chuckled and carried on but every now and then he'd make a very pointed remark. You see, he came here as the director of the St. Helena extension which was a short-lived thing or temporary and he had been a friend of Pomfret's and I think Pomfret knew him at Princeton and he was a real vital person, very much of a go-getter. He set the Richmond Area University Center on its feet or on its way.