

Moss: Well, at one time thought was given to a real effort -- I think it was in 1955 -- to convert it into a private institution. Most people who seriously examined that as a problem saw that it couldn't have been done. I may say, too, that early in the Bryan administration there was some talk of this, but this didn't work out. It wasn't just Mr. Bryan's fault or Mr. Rockefeller's fault. No one could quite imagine just what this would be if the change were made. And then there would be a question of whether the state would permit it. You would have had to have legislation for it. No, I don't think there is any serious effort in that direction.

Williams: I think in our first session we discussed the idea of William and Mary as a second-rate institution. Have you found or do you think that William and Mary in the time that you have been connected with it has been riding on its reputation built from the eighteenth century, or do you think it has a definite role in the twentieth?

Moss: Well, it has another reputation that is not eighteenth century. Now it has been riding on that; it has also been riding a little bit on its association with the Restoration. Anything in Williamsburg must be pretty good, you see. Now there is another one and that is that because of our admission of out-of-state girls (and men to some extent) was so tight we got the reputation in New England and in the Middle West of being a very choosy place. If you could get into William and Mary you must be good, so William and Mary must be good. Now I think we de-

served this. We were choosy, and there were many good people we had here, and our student body was pretty good. But this covered up a whole lot of ineffectiveness. And William and Mary examined <sup>from</sup> the standpoint of its resources as an educational institution was not up to the level of its reputation in places distant from here. And its reputation in Virginia dragged along behind the advance in its reputation in the country. I think today people in Virginia look on William and Mary as being <sup>it</sup> a pretty good place. But back in the 1940s they didn't think William and Mary was much better than it had been under the first Chandler. It was slow; most colleges have a reputation based on twenty years prior to the present. You see, the alumni don't make their mark until twenty years later. Now we ought to be able to make a mark with some of our alumni. We ought to have some millionaires among our alumni. We ought to have some men with great prestige. And I would say we aren't doing badly. You go to an alumni gathering and who shows up? It isn't the people with big prestige, you see.

Williams: I've kept you going long enough. I think you indicated earlier that you might have something to add at the end.

Moss: Well, I think that we have covered a good many of them. One thing -- I did think there were some corrections to be made about ~~the~~ earlier one: Chandler did feel that William and Mary should not be an elitist institution; he told me that. I did not have lunch with Fitzroy (in 1956 after delivering his let-

ier to Dabney), as I said I had, but probably a little bit later. I did not mention any faculty having any sentiment adverse to my "Bastille Day Letter," but there were Phelps and Pate who were opposed. I think most of those are the things that I had mentioned. Of course, when I look back over the whole thing as I did last night looking for letters, I realized that there were many, many, many more incidents than I have mentioned. Many of them were significant and exciting, but there is just room for so many.