PHILIP WEYERHAEUSER

In my solicitation of money for the College of Puget Sound, I talked to Mr. Philip Weyerhaeuser on a good many occasions and often he would help some - not a great deal - but often times he would help. I remember one time during the war he called and asked if he could take me to lunch. I met him at the Tacoma Club, We had lunch, and he said to me, "What kind of chaplains do they have in the service?" I had known many chaplains and I knew that some were very, very good and some were not so good. I also knew that the services made religion available to the men but did not aggressively pursue it or try to have them make any kind of special commitments.

In one of our conversations concerning the College of Puget Sound, he asked me a good many questions concerning the College of Puget Sound. He asked me a good many questions concerning our philosophy, the kind of curriculum we espoused, the purpose for which we felt we were in existence, and what we really wanted to do with young people. Out of the conversation came a statement that he was not on any Board of Trustees of any University. I asked him if he would seriously consider an invitation if we extended one. He did not say that he was eager but on the other hand, he let it be known that he would give it very careful thought if the invitation were to be issued.

I went back to Mr. William W. Kilworth, who was Chairman of the Board at that time and he thought it was a great idea to have Mr. J. P. Weyerhaeuser on the Board. He was invited and he accepted
quite readily. Inasmuch as he was Chairman of the Weyerhaeuser Company, his business trips took him away quite often and he attended probably fifty percent of the meetings. He often talked about the curriculum, he talked about the religious emphasis, he talked about conservation and he was very conservative in his approach to education as well as the financial support of education. He was very modest in the amounts of money that he gave including the College of Puget Sound. I was surprised when I saw him in action - he was exceedingly conservative particularly as related to the raising of money, the building of buildings, and hiring of faculty and staff. One of the great disappointments in my administration was the fact that when we had received our bequest for the Collins Library and we knew we would have to raise $200,000 to $250,000 more than came to us in the bequest. However, I had the financing arranged and presented the proposition to the Board of Trustees and recommended it was the time to build the new library. This was particularly true in relation to the fact that we had ten times more students than we had seats for in the old section of the library which was in the basement of Jones Hall. I made a very careful presentation to the Board of Trustees and it appeared that the resolution would be through to authorize the building. About the time that I thought we were going to have very fine success, Mr. Weyerhaeuser got up and said that he thought it was a very inappropriate time to build and certainly a very inappropriate time to raise money and that he for one would have to vote against it. I was very much shocked because I really had anticipated that there would be no
question about it particularly in the way that the financing was arranged. His speech literally killed the possibility of proceeding with the Collins Library at that time. In reading Dr. Todd's history I found that on several occasions like that he simply asked that the matter be placed on the table, which it was. I asked that it be placed on the table until I could bring in more information.

The Board of Trustees met three times a year and in discussing with my Executive Committee, the Board thought we ought to wait until the second meeting following before we proposed it again. We did and this time it went through without any problem. Mr. Weyerhaeuser was in the east at that time. I do not remember it but my family tells me that after the meeting of the Board of Trustees, when the library construction was delayed, I went home and literally had tears in my eyes because of how desperately the students needed the library - they needed the space, they needed more books, and they needed to have the real academic heart of an institution.

I have great regard and respect for Mr. Weyerhaeuser and I have always felt that his influence in general was very good in the community and for the University. He asked to be relieved of his responsibility because he was away so often he could not attend the meetings.

It has been very interesting to be associated with the Weyerhaeuser organization through the years. My association with Mr. Clapp has been very interesting and I have real regard for the
outstanding leadership he has given, for his ability to see all points of view, and his ability to keep calm in times of stress.

Mr. George Weyerhaeuser became prominent in the life of the community and in the company. I one time said to Mr. Norton Clapp that it would be a good idea to have Mr. George Weyerhaeuser on the Board of Trustees. He looked at me out of the corner of his eye and said, "Well, Franklin, I think that George is going to be very, very busy as he heads up the whole Weyerhaeuser operation. I had talked to George Weyerhaeuser previous to this and he had said that he was not on any Board of Trustees of any private school and suggested that he might render service if he were to be asked. I do not know whether he has ever been asked by the administration since my retirement.

It has been interesting that the Weyerhaeuser organization has supplied many Trustees. There was Mr. Philip Weyerhaeuser, there was Mr. Norton Clapp, there was Mr. Howarth Meadowcroft, there was Mr. Booth Gardner, there was Mrs. Titcomb, and Mrs. Titcomb's daughter, there was Mr. William McCormick, Mr. Lowery Wyatt, and Mr. Willard Gee, who is director of marketing. Through the years these people have been helpful in subsidizing certain portions for the development of the College and University.