UTILITIES DEALING WITH ELECTRICAL CONTRACTS
AND LONG-RANGE PLANNING

The electric utility had grown like the water utility so that each time a building was constructed the primary lines were brought into the building from Howarth or one of the other buildings. Finally, it became such a heavy load that the one in Howarth could not handle any more, so we had a survey made by an engineering firm to determine what would be the best possible electrical utility service we could have. We discovered that there were seven meters and we were paying a primary rate on each meter and by entering into an electrical contract, we would save in the first year $7,988 and as much as $10,000 after that. A series of negotiations were worked out by Dr. Banks and by Admiral Butterfield, and we entered into a contract on April 8, 1958, for the E-3 wholesale rate with the City, after we had fulfilled certain requirements.

One of these requirements was to have an underground conduit system and this was done by putting in six electrical power cables, three telephone call bells and other conduits. This would allow for future development and allow us to take a single circuit over to the fieldhouse. We also took the conduits to South Hall, the swimming pool, the gymnasium. The actual saving made was $15,376 a year. This was done through Nelsen, Krona and Ziegler, through Mr. Whitson who was the engineer from City Light. They suggested that the center vault be located in the Student Center, at a cost of $37,500 to the University.
We tried to enter into an agreement with the City Light to pay for the lighting on Lawrence and on Union Avenue but they would not do it, so the University installed the lighting on May 21, 1959. We had many discussions with the City Light about this but they felt that it was a service the University wanted and, therefore, the University should pay for it.

When the Student Center was constructed, there was considerable discussion as to whether there should be electrical heating, and whether there should be a boiler room with electrical boilers in it. Mr. Eugene Elliott, who was Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, was very much opposed to this and it did not carry in the Board of Trustees meeting. The City Engineer was Mr. Ferguson, an alumnus of the University and a good friend of Mr. Shotwell. We also had the advice of Mr. Harold Schrodel who was very much interested in having as much electrical heat as possible at the University.

When we build the fraternity complex across Union Avenue, it was decided it would be best to have electrical heat there, and it was installed in all the fraternity houses, along with an electrical kitchen in the food service area.

The University has been very pleased with its wholesale rate and with the cooperation which it has received from the City engineering department and the City utilities department.

R. Franklin Thompson
June 14, 1979