

INDEPENDENT COLLEGES OF WASHINGTON

The history in connection with the forming of the Independent Colleges of Washington is most interesting and the connection with Washington Friends of Higher Education , of which I was innovator and founder .

The Independent Colleges of Washington was created as a fund raising organization of the private schools. Because of the way it was set up, Whitman and the University of Puget Sound chose not to become members. Each president was obligated to spend twenty days raising money for the Independent Colleges of Washington. The amount of money that we would have received after twenty days work would be approximately \$9,000 and at that time I was averaging \$2,500 a day in contributions or pledges to the University of Puget Sound, so it we decided it would not be profitable for us to belong.

However, I became very much alarmed over the fact that the state universities could go to the Legislature with a strong lobby position. So I organized the Washington Friends of Higher Education with the independent colleges and it was clearly organized to be a political arm and political lobby so that we could stand together on the bills which we wanted and to prevent the state universities from having complete sway of the political situation in the Legislature. It is interesting that we started with a very small influence and power but by the end of my administration at the University of Puget Sound, the state schools were asking us to lend our political "clout" to help them get their bills through and they, in turn, helped us get our bills through.

It is also interesting to discover that, educationally, many experiments which we used and developed at the University of Puget Sound were immediately copied by the University of Washington, the main example of this being the creation of the School of Occupational Therapy.

Another interesting situation developed when Dr. Giadrone, who was then Superintendent of Schools in Tacoma, asked me to go to lunch. In the conversation, he said he wanted to start a community college in Tacoma but he wanted to know if the University of Puget Sound would oppose it or would we support it. I said that inasmuch as it would be a keen competitor of the University of Puget Sound I would not support it openly but I would not fight it because the University would not oppose anything if it were good for the entire community.

Subsequently, I was invited to a meeting of people who were present to consider the starting of Tacoma Community College. In the discussion, the location was considered, among them Tideflats, McKinley Hill and an area out to use by Tacoma airport. One man said/the right of eminent domain to secure the area owned by Weyerhaeuser Company which was then located next to the Tacoma airport. Dr. Giadrone instructed the attorney of the School Board to start such a proceeding. At that point, I asked if anyone had talked to the Weyerhaeuser Company about this and I was informed that no one had. I said, "Well, Mr. Clapp is chairman of our Board of Trustees and I am sure rather than having Weyerhaeuser face a court case of right of eminent domain someone ought to have

the courtesy of talking with them." I was asked if I would do this and I said I would.

The next time I saw Mr. Clapp I told him about it and he said that was the last thing they wanted was to be brought into court for a case of eminent domain. He said, "Tell their attorney to talk to our man in control of land and development and see if something can't be worked out." Ultimately, it was worked out and that is how Tacoma Community College's location came about.

On several occasions they have asked me how to raise money and I have been consultant to the Tacoma Community College Foundation for a number of years in connection with means of raising money for scholarships and for special functions at the Community College.

R. Franklin Thompson
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