

FREE TUITION IN THE CITY COLLEGES A PLEA FOR YOUR SUPPORT

ADDRESSING the Eighty-seventh Congress on January 11, President Kennedy said, "If this nation is to grow in wisdom and strength, then every able-bodied high school graduate should have the opportunity to develop his talents. Yet nearly half lack either the funds or the facilities to attend college."

Throughout the country there has been growing emphasis on the need to open the doors to college to every qualified student, *but not in the wealthiest State in the Union.*

The day after the President spoke, the State University announced that tuition fees would be charged, beginning in 1963, in the twenty-four upstate colleges and schools in which tuition is *now free*. The State Legislature last year gave the Trustees of the State University full power to determine tuition policy in all units of the State University system.

The 1961 State Legislature also amended the State Education Law which for 114 years had guaranteed that "the benefits of collegiate education" would be provided "*gratuitously*" for residents of New York City. This amended law governing the City's degree-granting colleges now makes tuition fees permissive, and allows the Board of Higher Education to set up a fee schedule at any time. The present Board is opposed to tuition fees. But will pressure shortly be brought to bear for a change, in line with upstate policy, and will curtailment of State funds for the City colleges follow, if the Board maintains free tuition?

It was proposed last year that, if fees were charged in the City colleges, they would be remitted for those students whose parents offered proof that they could not pay. Such a divisive arrangement would create great difficulty, and would involve the expense of investigation of thousands of applications.

All experience indicates that the great majority of students, from homes where one child, or more than one, may be attending a City college, could not afford tuition fees, in addition to present registration and laboratory fees, and expenses for books. At Hunter the registration fee is \$48 for the year; other fees and books raise the costs to \$100 or \$150 annually. Reports at Hunter and at City College have shown that over seventy per cent of the undergraduates worked part-time, to meet their own expenses, as well as, often, to make some contribution weekly to the family budget.

Nor are loans from private banks or from the State or Federal Government the answer to the needs of students from low-income families, according to Mr. John F. Morse, a former chief of the National Defense Student Loan Program. Mr. Morse, now a consultant to the Program, and vice-president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in pleading for an expanded Federal Scholarship Program (in the *Times* of October 25) said that a loan program, no matter how large it may be, offers little help to students from the lowest income groups. Nor can parents or students in middle income groups afford to borrow money they cannot plan to return, without great hardship, in these days of generally high costs.

Too few State Regents' scholarships are awarded, in proportion to the need. In 1961 about 17,000 high school seniors won scholarships, ten per cent of the graduating classes throughout the City and State. But fifty-five thousand seniors had taken the Regents' examinations. Those that did not win scholarships could look forward to the \$200 grant, which was legislated last year in Albany for all students, regardless of need, who attend colleges in New York State where tuition fees are charged. Would the \$200 annual grant meet the whole of the tuition charges that might be levied against students at the City colleges? Need, low family income, would have to be established for any larger grant, according to the law.

There is only one safe course now if free tuition is to be maintained in the City colleges. The 1961 State law making tuition fees permissive must be amended by the Legislature now in session. Mayor Wagner requested in December that

CALL TO MEETING

All active (i.e. "paid-up") members of the Alumni Association are invited to attend a meeting to be held in the North Lounge at College on Wednesday, March 7, 1962, concomitantly with the Executive Council meeting, for the purpose of completing the proposed revision of the Alumni Constitution and By-Laws.

At the meeting on January 3, 1962, at which it was hoped that this business could be completed, it was agreed that a quorum was not present. At the same time the hope was expressed that a quorum could be obtained at the March 7 meeting, and the President was instructed to prepare for the NEWS a clear explanation of the situation. This accordingly follows. The writer regrets that it is of necessity long and complicated.

A committee under the Chairmanship
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PROPOSED SLATE

The following slate of officers for the coming year is offered to the membership for consideration by the Nominating Committee:

President: Anna Michels Trinsey '22
1st V.P.: Meta Aronson Schechter '12
2nd V.P.: Ethel Garfunkel Berl '27
3rd V.P.: Anna Meade Heine '22
Treasurer: Celia Davinsky Zanger '22
Asst. Treas.: Yvette Gordon Hyman '46
Rec. Sec.: Beatrice Schmerer Broido '27
Asst. Rec. Sec.: Grace Campus
Krajcovic '46
Cor. Sec.: Isabelle Freund Weill '26
Asst. Cor. Sec.: Florence Bromberg
Sider '52

VIRGINIA ZUCKERMAN, Chairman

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FREE TUITION PLEA (Continued)

legislation be prefiled in Albany to mandate free tuition for the municipal colleges, and this was done. This proposed legislation, "An Act to Amend the Education Law", Introductory Law 256, is Subdivision 5, of Section 6202 of the Education Law as amended by Chapters 388 and 389 of the Law of 1961.

The Board of Directors and the Executive Council of the Alumni Association of Hunter College appeal to all graduates of the College, to all parents of the undergraduates, to all citizens concerned for the City's educational program, to write to the Governor, to their State Senators and Assemblymen,* and to the members of the Legislature listed below, in support of the above amendment to insure mandated free tuition for undergraduates in the City colleges. If thousands of citizens express their support by writing to Albany and to the press, mandatory free tuition will be restored.

*Telephone to the League of Women Voters, OR 9-3730, if you do not know the name of your State Senator or Assemblyman. The League suggests that the name and address of the writer appear at the top of the letter, as well as the signature at the end.

CALL TO MEETING (Continued)

of Anna Michels Trinsey and the Vice-Chairmanship of Gertrude Hackes Hanauer labored for many months over the proposed revision. A meeting of the Association to consider this important matter was called for January 4, 1961, through the medium of the NEWS for December 1960, having already been announced in the November issue, which also contained a complete copy of the proposed revision of the Constitution and By-Laws and a summary of substantive changes therein. A gratifyingly large group was on hand on January 4; and the proposed revision, as presented by Mrs. Trinsey, was given thorough and thoughtful consideration.

Article IV of the Constitution some time ago included the provision that "Any officer who has served three consecutive full terms may not be elected to the same office until a two-year interval has elapsed." This was later changed to read: "No officer except the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer may serve for more than two consecutive full terms." The Revision Committee discussed the question whether two full terms should be changed back to three, at least for the President, but was not unanimous in regard to it. The Chairman accordingly included in her Summary of Substantive Changes the following note: "The Committee on Revision of the Constitution now (June 1960) suggests that the members of the Association consider whether they wish to limit officers (other than the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer) to two successive terms of two years each in office". At the meeting on January 4, 1961, there was considerable discussion of this point. Mrs. Berl moved that the maximum number of consecutive terms to be served by the President be three. Mr. Kanter proposed that there be no limit at all. It was finally voted to permit the President to serve three consecutive full terms.

One of the other changes considered at this meeting was a reduction in the quorum at meetings of the Association. It was felt that the former number, 100, was too large, as insufficient attendance might in-

terfere with the transaction of necessary business. The Committee on Revision had proposed that the number be reduced to 75; at the January 4 meeting it was voted, on Mrs. Hanauer's motion, to reduce this still further to 50.

The revision of the Constitution was completed at the meeting in question, but not that of the By-Laws. The completion of these was postponed to a second meeting of the Association to be held concomitantly with that of the Executive Council on March 1, 1961; and this was announced in the NEWS for February 1961. On March 1, however, there was so much business to be transacted, including such immediately urgent matters as the threatened imposition of tuition fees and details involving the 1961 charter flight, as well as other items, that the completion of the proposed revision was impossible at that time, and it was postponed until May 10, 1961, when a joint meeting of the Executive Council and the Board of Directors was to be held.

At this third meeting, the Chairman of the Revision Committee, Mrs. Trinsey, stated that there had been some objection on the part of Alumni members who were not present on January 4, to the fact that on that date a change was made in the Constitution which they stated they had not known would be introduced, in regard to the number of consecutive terms of office permitted to the President (*i.e.* the question whether these should be two or three). Mrs. Trinsey said that she therefore felt the matter should be taken up afresh. Mrs. Zanger moved for reconsideration. Mrs. Abrams moved in favor of a limit of two terms rather than three. This was carried. Mrs. Golomb then raised the question as to whether there was a quorum. There were over 50 present, the number established as a quorum at the meeting on January 4, but not 100, the number prescribed by the old Constitution now under process of revision. Mrs. Stern as an authority on parliamentary law ruled that, since there had been no motion on January 4 to adopt the newly revised version of the Constitution as a whole, the changes then adopted were not yet in

Send as many copies of your letter as you can to State officials (only a short one is required to express your plea for free tuition). Introduce resolutions in civic organizations to which you belong and send telegrams to the Governor, following action thereon.

In his first report to his Trustees after the founding of the College in 1870, Dr. Hunter spoke of that democracy which levels upward, and there are still no better words to describe the effect of the function of the tuition-free college in our society.

ANNA MICHELS TRINSEY

Chairman, Committee on Free Tuition

Majority Leader of the Senate: Walter J. Mahoney

Minority Leader of the Senate: Joseph Zaretski

Speaker of the Assembly: Joseph F. Carlino

Majority Leader of the Assembly: George L. Ingalls

Minority Leader of the Assembly: Anthony J. Travia

Chairman, Senate Committee New York City Affairs:
MacNeil Mitchell

effect; and accordingly, since there was not an attendance of 100 at the current meeting (May 10), no action on revision taken at this time was valid. The President therefore ruled, although regretfully and reluctantly, that there must be still another postponement.

The agenda at the October 4 meeting were too numerous and serious to permit of thoughtful consideration of the revision on that occasion; but, as announced in the NEWS for November 1961, an Association meeting was called for January 3, 1962, concomitantly with the Council meeting on that date. Alas, the quorum of 100 was again not reached. On this occasion some members, evidently in desperation, urged that, if no one asked whether there was a quorum, it might be assumed that there was one; and Mrs. Golomb made an eloquent plea that the rules should be subject to the Association, not the Association to the rules. Mrs. Stern, appealed to by the President, did not give a positive ruling, but appeared to think that a vote was desirable. The President, mindful of the earlier ruling that the new Constitution was not yet in effect and that therefore the original quorum of 100 was still in force, gave it as her opinion that the Constitution must not be set aside under any circumstances; but, having so ruled, declared that she was the servant, not the mistress, of the body, and requested that some motion was made. A motion by Mr. Kanter to postpone the matter to the next meeting was voted down, and the body's decision was given for an immediate vote. Mr. Kanter then asked whether a quorum was present, and, since one was not, it became impossible to vote. The President expressed great relief at this, voicing her belief that a government must be one of laws and not of men; this statement was greeted by applause.

It was then decided, as reported above, that an Association meeting be called for March 7, and that the need for this meeting be clearly set forth by the President in the NEWS. It is ardently hoped that this time it will be possible to put the final touches to the long-debated and oft-postponed revision.

E. ADELAIDE HAHN