



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
RUTLEDGE BUILDING
1429 SENATE STREET
COLUMBIA, S. C. 29201

March 17, 1977

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HOWARD R. BOOZER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Robert C. Lake, Jr.
Senate Education Committee
P.O. Box 142
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Lake:

The Commission on Higher Education recently reviewed Bill S.251 which originated in the Higher Education Study Committee under your distinguished leadership. During that review of S.251, the Commission considered an expression of concern from the Council of Presidents of Public Senior Colleges and Universities about the following provision in Section 4 as approved by the Senate Education Committee:

"While the commission is conducting its study and until such time as the master plan is adopted, no public institution of higher learning shall expand its curricula, administrative staff or faculty nor shall there be further construction of physical plants other than construction already approved by the General Assembly unless such expansion or construction is approved by the commission and the Budget and Control Board or the General Assembly to satisfy pressing local needs."

The presidents are concerned that the moratorium imposed by this provision may unnecessarily delay or even preclude justified and urgently needed additions to staff or faculty, or some form of essential capital improvement. Current (and anticipated) fiscal restraints already limit expansion and construction to the essential minimum, and current laws already provide for appropriate controls by the Commission over programs and by the Budget and Control Board over personnel and capital improvements. The moratorium, quoted above, does not appear to be necessary.

The Commission directed that this matter be brought to the attention of appropriate members of the General Assembly, with the recommendation that the moratorium in Section 4, S.251, quoted above, be rescinded or amended so as to ensure that essential activities can be carried on. I bring it to your attention for whatever action you deem appropriate.

The Honorable Robert C. Lake, Jr.

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We are most appreciative of your interest in postsecondary education. If any member of the Commission or Commission staff can assist you in any manner, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

R. Cathcart Smith
R. Cathcart Smith
Chairman

RCS:gs

cc: Members, Commission on Higher Education