

granting of advanced academic degrees by Federal agencies or establishments. We believe these efforts arise from basic confusion as to the nature of a university, the significance and meaning of the academic degree, and the resources of the non-Federal academic establishment.

The basic characteristic of the university as a center for the advancement of knowledge is one of free inquiry, free exchange of the results of research with other scholars in the field, and free criticism. Another characteristic is the opportunity offered for educating young men and women in the processes and methods of research. The advanced academic degree is a recognition of educational attainment and research accomplishment under conditions of free inquiry, exchange, and criticism. Its use by agencies or institutions which are not and cannot become universities in this sense of the term is a misuse which is both undesirable and unnecessary. A more comprehensive statement of this position is available on request.

(J) Proposal for Research Centers Independent of Universities.

While our Associations recognize that the problems of research in an extremely limited number of areas may require the establishment of research centers away from the site of a university, we believe that such action by Federal or state governments should be taken only when its necessity is unequivocally established. We believe graduate education of high quality is inseparable from basic research, that basic research flourishes best in the atmosphere of an academic institution, and that any national policy of encouraging the establishment of new basic research institutes that are not university-related would be seriously detrimental to both basic research and graduate education.

(K) Land-Grant Teaching Funds, Morrill-Nelson Act.

In the 11 years since the last revision and expansion of the authorization for annual grants for further endowment of instruction in the Land-Grant institutions, there has been continued inflation and substantial population growth. The net result is that the purchasing power represented by these funds has decreased while demands have increased. The