

NEGROES CRITICIZE MARYLAND SCHOOL

Making College of Academy
at Princess Anne Is Called
By-Passing of Equal Rights

By **GEORGE STREATOR**
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PRINCESS ANNE, Md., Dec. 4—A controversy over Negro education with issues that cross political and racial lines has arisen in this state over the planned expansion of the Old Princess Anne Academy here into the Maryland State College, a land-grant institution under the control of the University of Maryland, educational leaders confirmed today.

The expansion of this school by a grant of \$3,755,000 in state funds has been supported by Dr. H. C. Byrd, president of the university, who proposed it to the Legislature as a step in granting Negroes a fair share of state and Federal educational funds.

The program has been attacked by Negroes, chiefly in the Baltimore area, as an attempt of the state to bypass pending lawsuits to gain entrance for Negro graduate students into the university.

More than 300,000 Negroes reside in Maryland, about a fifth of the state's population. Of these about 200,000 are in the Baltimore area and about 50,000 on the Eastern Shore, where Princess Anne is the seat of Somerset County.

Because of the individuality of the Eastern Shore and the "Southern" point of view attributed to it, Negroes, led by partisans of Morgan State College in Baltimore, the Baltimore Afro-American newspapers and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have attacked the proposed college at Princess Anne.

They contend that the project is designed to circumvent equal rights moves which stem from the admission of Negro students to the University Law School in Baltimore some years ago.

Dr. Byrd States His Position

In an interview at College Park, the seat of the state university, Dr. Byrd denied this week that the construction of the new college was aimed at denying educational advantages to Negroes and declared that it was "a recognition of the duty of the state to its Negro citizens."

Tracing the history of Princess Anne Academy, he asserted that it had been for many years the recipient of Federal funds when it was owned by the old Morgan College, then under the Methodist Church, and that the decision of the state to develop the new institution was in line with earlier requests made by Morgan trustees that a land-grant college for Negroes be developed at Princess Anne.

Because he was "aware" that the state had not provided equally and fairly for Negroes, he had been moved, he said, to propose a step to give Negroes privileges already enjoyed in the average Southern State but denied in Maryland.

While wanting Negroes to receive state educational funds, he said that he was not prepared to say that large numbers of Negro youth would "get along well" in the University, although a select group of professional students, being older and more mature "probably would get along all right."

Many Negroes have accused him of proposing "a system of limited segregation and limited integration."

Dr. Byrd said that he would, "if allowed," provide for Negroes better buildings and facilities, but that he did not believe Maryland had the money to build for Negroes a medical school, an engineering school and other facilities to "parallel" its white schools.

Citing Meharry Medical College, he said that he was in agreement with the Southern Governors who wanted to build regional schools for Negroes.

Meeting in January, the State Legislature will receive additional proposals about "a solution of the problems of Negro education," he said.

Head of College Is Assailed

The proposed college will be headed by Dr. John T. Williams, an agricultural expert, who has been dean of the Kentucky State College at Frankfort. He has been under attack as "an interloper brought here to do the biddings of Dr. Byrd."

The faculty members selected by

Dr. Williams are listed for the most part, in last year's catalogues of half the leading land-grant colleges for Negroes in the South. Promises regarding salaries and "freedom to teach" are said to have influenced most of them to come here.

The opposition spokesmen include Carl Murphy, president of The Afro-American papers, Dr. Dwight O. W. Holmes, retired president of Morgan, and the Baltimore branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The NAACP has entered suits to open the professional colleges of the state university to Negroes. About thirty Negroes are enrolled in its school at Baltimore.

Mr. Murphy said that he was "unalterably opposed to setting up a new Negro college in the state" and proposed acceptance of graduate students at the University of Maryland.

Also a part of the general plans of higher education for Negroes, the State Teachers College at Bowie, Md., has been suggested to replace the school here as a land-grant college.