

# PRINCESS ANNE COLLEGE TO BE KEPT ON 'SHORE

## Legislative Council Votes To Retain School Under U. Of M. Control

[By A Sun Staff Correspondent]

Salisbury, Md., Dec. 17—The Legislative Council voted here tonight in favor of keeping the Princess Anne College for Negroes at its present site and, as at present, under the jurisdiction of the University of Maryland.

The council thus opposed the report of the Marbury Commission on Higher Education, which had advocated that the college be abandoned.

The vote, 13 to 4, in favor of retention of the Eastern Shore school, with one member of the council abstaining from voting, followed more than an hour and a half of debate.

### Motion To Defer Beaten

Previously, another motion—to defer action on the question until December 30—had been defeated, 10 to 8.

Eastern Shore members of the council argued that if action were to be delayed, the University of Maryland probably would lose two contracts totaling \$347,000 for new construction at Princess Anne, on which bids already had been received.

The university has asked the Board of Public Works for permission to let the contracts.

C. Ferdinand Sybert, Speaker of the House of Delegates, criticized the action of the Council as "snap judgment."

### Voted Against Motion

In voting against the final motion to leave unchanged the status of the school, Mr. Sybert said that he favored "keeping the college where it is," but at present did not want "to pass on the whole question."

Earlier, nineteen of the twenty members of the Legislative Council had inspected facilities of the Princess Anne College and listened to advocates to its retention on the 'Shore.

In proposing abandonment of Princess Anne, the Marbury report recommended that Morgan State College be designated the land-grant college for Negroes in Maryland.

State Senator Joseph R. Byrnes, chairman of the Legislative Council, said he was "very favorably  
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ent at the council meeting tonight and also at a conference of members of the Legislative Council with Princess Anne College officials this afternoon.

At the conference, Dr. John T. Williams, new head of the college, told the council that the report of the Marbury commission had been "unfair to the college."

#### Cites "Inconsistencies"

He said researchers for the commission had spent only 22 hours on the Princess Anne campus and that any report based on such a limited study would not have been "accepted" by the very scientists who made the study.

The new college head, who has been here three months, also pointed out what he called "several inconsistencies" in the report as he urged members of the council to retain the college as a division of the State university.

The inspection of the college and conference had been arranged last week to expedite, if possible, the council's recommendation as to the future of the Princess Anne school.

#### Action On Contracts Postponed

The immediate cause of the trip was the necessity for deciding whether the State should proceed with the scheduled construction program here. The Board of Public Works, pending an expression from

the council, had postponed action on the \$347,000 in contracts.

Dr. Williams, who was joined in his statement in favor of retention of Princess Anne as a part of the State university by J. Millard Tawes, State bank commissioner, and James F. Stewart, Salisbury undertaker, said the Marbury report was inconsistent in saying Princess Anne was in an "unfortunate location."

He challenged the report's contention that, because of its location, Princess Anne found it difficult to "attract and retain a high-grade teaching staff," listing qualifications of several new members of the staff and others who will join the college faculty next year.

#### Program Outlined

In outlining the instructional program, he said courses in building construction, laundering, tailoring, clothes repairing, photography, furniture repairing and upholstery and automobile mechanics were contemplated as additions to the present courses in order to prepare students for earning a livelihood.

With this type of program, he said, "I have no doubt in my mind that the enrollment will be so large that you can't handle it."

Mr. Tawes, former State controller, said he could not "conceive that the Legislative Council, having

seen the financial investment that the State has made in Princess Anne College, would be willing to recommend that it be abandoned completely as a Negro college."

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impressed" by the administration at Princess Anne.

But in voting against the combined resolution to keep the school at its present site and also under the University of Maryland, and also in voting to defer action on the matter, Senator Byrnes cited what he called "extreme lobbyist activity" in behalf of the former proposal.

Other council members declared during the debate that they favored keeping the college on the Eastern Shore but preferred not to decide the "question of jurisdiction" until later.

#### Byrd Attends Meeting

The council met in the Wicomico county courthouse after attending a dinner here.

Dr. H. C. Byrd, president of the University of Maryland, was pres-