President Friday Reflects On Ten Years Of Growth

By SAM MORTON
Associated Press Writer

Dr. William C Friday became president of the Consolidated University of North Carolina in 1956. At 36, he was the nation's youngest president of a major university.

Ten years later,, Dr. Friday said recently, the University has "turned the corner on negativism and abuses and is ready to move ahead.

"And I," said Mr. Friday, "have learned a lot about people and ideas and points of view. These have been years that tested us all."

In those 10 years:

—The Consolidated University's enrollment increased from 14,393 in three branches to 27,883 in four branches, Charlotte becoming the fourth branch last year.

—The budget went from $34,035,568 in 1956 to $87,983,927 in 1965-66.

—The value of buildings and equipment at all branches increased from $108,710,608 to $201,257,553.

—The salary for a full professor went from $8,619 to $15,066.

But the next three to five years, he said, may be the most critical in the University's development.

"We are making a lot of plans. We must prepare to handle, eventually, 50,000 students. Universities are being asked to do things not thought of only a few years ago. Students are demanding more.

"There is a growing dependence of the federal government and private corporations on universities for research. We also must graduate more highly trained people. It's a big job," he said.

Mr. Friday, at 46, remains long conference table in the paneled conference room at the University's Charlotte branch.

"This place is growth," he said. "This is what the University is all about."

Mr. Friday, at 46. remains trim and energetic, outwardly calm and easy - going, finding time to talk to anyone about the University.

John W. Caldwell, chancellor of North Carolina State University, once described Mr. Friday as "completely without any pretense whatever and unselfishly devoted to the University. He is a man of extraordinary kindness, thoughtfulness and gentleness. He does what he does without bombast or fanfare."

Mr. Friday was Virginia - born, but North Carolina-reared and educated, having grown up in Dallas, N. C., and attended Wake Forest College, N. C. State, where he got a degree in textile engineering, and Chapel Hill, where he got his law degree.

He turned down a position on the legal staff of a textile firm, to become assistant to the dean of students at Chapel Hill in 1951. Then he became assistant to the president, secretary to the University, acting president and president.

In Friday's 10 years as president, UNC has adopted a code for academic freedom, developed an educational television network that now reaches three million persons and, with the help of Duke University, transformed the Research Triange and its Institute from an idea to a reality. The Triangle has attracted a $25 million federal environmental health institute.

He was chairman of the American Council on Education in 1965 and is an advisor for a $5 million program to help Negro colleges in the South. President Johnson appointed him to a planning group for the establishment of White House internships for college students.

Mr. Friday has faced the Speaker Ban Law controversy, a bitter battle over a name for N. C. State and a current argument over the size of the Consoidated University's Board of Trustees.

The hottest issue has been the 1963 Speaker Ban Law, which forbade known Communists and persons pleading the 5th Amendment in loyalty cases from speaking on State-supported campuses.

A special legislative session early this year amended it, giving control over campus speakers to the trustess. They in turn delegated authority to chancellors of the University branches.

After two controversial men were denied permission to speak on the Chapel Hill campus, a group of UNC students filed suit, seeking to have the law declared unconstitutional. The suit has not yet been heard.

"North Carolina," said Mr. Friday, "is the only state with such a law. The University opposed it because we feel the best way to expose totalitarianism is to let the students see its errors. I have faith in the students to reject these arguments.

"I think the University has come out of the controversy stronger, with better understanding. It has been injured. There's no doubt about that. But the matter has been resolved in the most successful way."

Mr. Friday said he would not comment on the size of the Board of Trustees.

The important thing, he said, is the role of the Trustees. He thinks they do not have enough authority.

"Our board does not have the authority some do," he said. "It can't say what salaries will be, can't take the budget and place parts of it in certain areas. The University is so large now it needs more flexibility in dealing with the future."

Two years ago, Mr. Friday asked the best academic minds at the University to consider its program and relate it to growing enrollment and other factors.

From this came guidelines for the future, which Friday announced recently.

A major proposal is to have each branch offer a wider variety of degrees. A first step was a college of arts and sciences just approved for the Charlotte branch.

"There are," said Friday, "a lot of new things and a lot of movement in higher education now."

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Sleep, Freshmen, Sleep

WASHINGTON (AP)—If you entered UNC for the first time this fall, the U. S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare has some advice for you.

The advice? Get enough sleep.

John W. Gardner told a group of high school graduates last year that if they followed the usual tradition of college freshmen, their first semester would be a "festival of sleeplessness."

"As long as you can get away with it happily and successfully," he added, "it's all right with me. But when your prevailing mood becomes one of anxiety or fear or hostility or misery—take the medicine! Sleep!"

Gardner's other comments made when he was still president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, are equally understanding, pertinent, and thoughtful. They have been reprinted in a new booklet, The College Experience Ahead, published by two departments of the National Education Association.

NEW BOOKLET

THE NEW HEAD is not alarmed, for example, by the pressures on freshmen to conform in college. After all "there is a certain amount of sheer pleasure in doing things of which one's parents disapprove."

But he reminds students, "Keep one small independent corner of your mind that calls nonsense by its right name, that holds to the things you know to be true and that laughs at pretentiousness even when it is exciting and fashionable."

He recognizes that bright youngsters who sailed through high school winning steady praise and admiration on all sides may be dashed and disturbed to find everybody in college is just about as bright as they are. Speaking of stiff academic competition and battles of the intellect, he says, "you don't have to win them all."

Bright students know they have ability, should have faith in it . . . and not be shaken by monentary setbacks.

Discussing whether and how soon the college student should begin to specialize Gardner believes that some people are happier, more productive and even more useful as narrow specialists, but on the other hand, "some of our more useful people don't specialize at all."

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