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Commission for Blacks

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SUMMARY OF JOINT PLAN FOR BRINGING ABOUT ADDITIONAL DESEGREGATION  
OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN TENNESSEE

John W. Prados  
Vice President for Academic Affairs  
July 25, 1974

The plan for bringing about additional desegregation of public higher education in Tennessee, which is being recommended for adoption by the Board of Trustees today, consists basically of two parts. One deals with goals for recruitment of qualified black students and employment of qualified black faculty and staff members at the University's five campuses and state-wide operating divisions over the next five years, together with steps to implement these goals. This portion of the plan has been discussed and endorsed by the President's Staff and is, we believe, consistent with guidelines laid down by the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The other part of the plan deals with specific measures proposed to bring about additional desegregation of public higher education in the Nashville area, with special reference to Tennessee State University. This is the portion of the plan which I would like to discuss with you briefly at this time.

As President Boling has told you, the plan was developed through the efforts of a joint committee of the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, the State Board of Regents, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, with the assistance of a group of educational consultants from outside of Tennessee. The committee's final plan, drafted with the assistance of staff members of the three boards, followed closely the recom-

mendations of these consultants. Because the interests and desires of the groups represented on the committee were, at times, in conflict with each other, the plan represents a compromise and as such, required concessions by each of the participants. On the other hand, we believe that the concessions made by the University of Tennessee are no more severe than those of the other parties, and that the plan has the major advantage of maintaining and protecting the role of the University of Tennessee at Nashville as the primary evening institution of higher education serving the working adults of the Nashville Metropolitan area. The committee strongly endorsed the consultants' recommendation that there be no merger of The University of Tennessee at Nashville and Tennessee State University. Although we would have preferred a plan which placed greater stress on development of joint and cooperative academic programs among public Nashville-area institutions, rather than an assignment of exclusive programs among these institutions, we believe that the plan offers significant opportunity for enhanced cooperation among these institutions in areas of educational program delivery, research, and public service.

The essential points of the plan are as follows:

1. The University of Tennessee at Nashville will continue its role as an institution serving working adults with academic credit offerings in the evenings and with a broad range of non-credit and public service programs throughout the day.
2. Tennessee State University will continue to be primarily a daytime institution offering general academic programs and extension programs emphasizing service to the Nashville Metropolitan area.
3. The University of Tennessee at Nashville will be the only public institution authorized to offer programs leading to the Master of

Business Administration Degree in Nashville; Tennessee State University will be the only public institution authorized to offer graduate teacher education programs in Nashville.

4. Both institutions will continue to offer undergraduate programs in Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, and Teacher Education, with TSU providing these programs in the daytime and UTN providing them in the evening.
5. TSU will be the only public institution in Nashville offering programs in Fine Arts, Home Economics, and Allied Health Fields other than Nursing.
6. Both TSU and UTN will continue to offer Associate Degree programs in Nursing (this is UTN's only daytime academic credit program). UTN will be given exclusive responsibility for developing a Bachelor's Degree Program in Nursing.
7. A cooperative Center for Urban Affairs and Public Administration will be established in Nashville and staffed by Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee State University, The University of Tennessee at Nashville, and The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The Center will serve as a base for a broad range of public service and research projects to help state and local governments in dealing with urban problems. Joint undergraduate and masters-level academic programs will be offered through the Center by the participating institutions.
8. Both UTN and TSU will continue their undergraduate Engineering programs, with TSU retaining the daytime programs in specialized fields of Engineering, and UTN responsible for the evening general Engineering program now offered jointly with TSU. TSU will be given exclusive authority to develop in Nashville a Bachelor of Technology Degree Program. Both UTN and TSU will work cooperatively in developing masters-level work in Engineering through increased involvement in the graduate Engineering programs currently offered in Nashville by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

In summary, continuing emphasis will be placed on development of cooperative efforts between UTN and TSU, including joint academic program offerings, and the joint development and delivery of continuing education and public service programs.