

% Dr. L. J. Dey,

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Dear Z. K.,

Thank you for your interesting letter. It seems to me that the approvals already granted, particularly of the posts of Professors of Law and Senior Lectures in Bantu Languages, are good signs, indicating that the Minister and Secretary of Education are wanting to do what they can, while they can, to strengthen the position of the College. I have heard, on what I think is good authority, that the Cabinet has decided that Fort Hare is to be transferred to the control of the Bantu Education Department, and I don't know that there is anything that can be done about it, except to make every effort to maintain its full academic status and the measure of autonomy its Council now enjoys. I am told that there can be no question of interfering with existing staff rights - salaries, pensions, etc. - though new grades, different from those applying elsewhere, could be established for new appointments. There may even be different scales for European and African though you may be able to escape this bad thing for the College by pointing out how few appointments there are and how specially well qualified and suited

to appointment men are who qualify for appointments at Fort Hare. The cost is such a small thing in the over all picture, and the principle so very important. I am sure that Mr. van de Walt and our Menesters will do all they can to secure the best terms, and the College is now so fully included in University legislation that it is going to require a lot of amendments before any change can be made.

I have received a copy of the annual report as typed for Council, of the Audited Accounts and of the Auditor's comments. Knowing that the report would appear over my signature, as it was for 1955, I purposely omitted reference to all those whose appointments really terminate in 1956. As it appears now I could not sign it and it think it would be kinder to omit all reference to Mr. Rodger, Mrs Smith and myself in this report, where some reference must be made to the closing of the College and the Commission. I have therefore ~~not~~ written at some length to Dr. Allin, the other signatory to the report, asking for the omission of those references and for one or two other minor alterations, which I hope he will recommend to Council. I am grateful to you for writing the last sections and for including reference to Mr. van de Walt's

visit, which was very timely, and will prove very useful. The parts now omitted can, in the main, be held over for next year's report, and they won't be missed in this report if all are omitted for the reason that they are still members of staff; they have received "minutes" indicating that their departure has not gone unnoticed.

The Auditor's comments contain more of these suggestions of abuse, with no detail. I have therefore prepared a confidential statement for Council giving that detail, and I hope that if ~~some~~ anyone claims that something else should have been done, he should state just what that something should have been. You might use the Adams case to get authority to assist students to advanced courses, at Fort Hare, or elsewhere if Fort Hare cannot provide them.

I note also in the Minutes of the Finance Committee, held on the 14th of December, a tendency to lay down hard and fast rules about fees. If a student has been ~~sent~~ admitted at the beginning of the year, and a place reserved, full fees have been charged — late arrival is the student's own business or that of the body sending him to the college, as in the case of Non-Union Bursars; but where a student has been omitted late, though vacancies occurring, or doubt about

a luxury, or delayed confirmation of results, or some such cause, fees have often been charged only from the date of arrival. There has been a lot of talk about "primary justice". This seems such a case. Also, where a student leaves without notice, through illness or the death of a sponsor, or some such reasonable cause, it seems to me inhuman to insist on the payment of a quarter's fees in lieu of notice. It is a right the college has, but surely there should be some discretion left in regard to the exercise of that right. Is the prerogative of mercy to be ~~done~~ destroyed? Is everything to be done by fixed rule? As I have said in my statement to the Council, it is impossible to anticipate every kind of contingency and to legislate for it in advance, and it is inhuman to produce a scheme which leaves no room for special consideration. There can have been no urgent reason for raising the question at all, as the cases which have arisen each year are few, but I do hope that those rigid recommendations will not be accepted.

We have been moving about. Our last trip was to spend 10 days with Clifford and Joan at Fichtelberg, where he is starting a practice. We returned on Wednesday evening, and I'm glad I

did, because otherwise I would not have had a chance to comment on these Council documents in time; they were waiting for me here. Now we are wanting to settle down for a while on our own for the type of rest that isn't possible in a house full of grandchildren - dear as they are - where it is difficult to find a quiet spot. We are planning to leave on Wednesday morning to go down to Mabel and Lois' cottage at Kidd's Beach to spend a couple of months there on our own, before returning to P.M.B. to acquire a house, which we can't do now because our capital in the Provident Fund is not yet available, and to settle down to some gardening, housekeeping, and study and research in the Labs at the University. Mabel will know where we are. I do not know when or whether we may run up to Alice, but I can hope to see you some time even if it can be arranged when you happen to be going down to East London on some other business.

Kindest regards to yourself and to Frieda and all your family. We think of you often.

Yours sincerely
Cliff Dent.