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Annual Report of President Warmoth T. Gibbs to the Board of Trustees

Warmoth T. Gibbs

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The so called "Sit-Down" demonstrations in which some of our students engaged were undertaken without my knowledge or consent. However, I think it may be well to take a moment to explain this rather explosive and tension filled matter to the Board.

The students feel deeply and sincerely that they have important basic interests at stake in the situation. This feeling is common throughout the country. They feel these matters so strongly that threats of arrest or intimidation do not seem to deter them. Consequently, this feeling must be understood in dealing with them in order to maintain their cooperation.

A. and T. students were the first to "sit-down" in the State, but such demonstrations have occurred in other sections of the country many times before. Although feeling as they do about this matter, our students were well behaved, respectful and peaceful, both toward college authorities and store managers. Many influential people, some of whom did not agree with the demonstration, have complimented the students on their conduct in this difficult situation.

The Mayor of Greensboro, the City Manager and the Mayor's Committee on Community Relations have been conscientiously at work with our students, faculty representatives and other local citizens in an effort to solve this problem for Greensboro. The students have cooperated well and all cooperating agencies are hopeful that something constructive will be worked out in the near future.

The new policy adopted recently by the Board whereby students, beginning in the Fall, 1960, will be required to make payments in three installments instead of the monthly payments, will make for more effective operations in the Bursar's Office. On the other hand, by requiring a larger amount of cash in advance will bring on hardships to many of our students. This will re-emphasize the long felt need for a substantial student loan program that could be available to needy students in times of emergencies.