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Decision At Credibility Gap

During the course of this year, the University of Hartford under the direction of Chancellor Woodruff has made many irresponsible important decisions. The latest of these to date was that of accepting an agreement cooperating with the state of Pennsylvania, in sending them records of disiplined Pennsylvania students. These records are to be used by the state of Pennsylvania to cut off state financial aid from certain undersirable elements in the academic community. The Chancelor made a hasty decision on the advise of a member of his North House staff. This point was made by BruceHyndman, ass't to the Chancellor. However, when the Chancellor was confronted with this question last evening, he stated that the decision was made with the advise of the University's counsel Atwood Collins. This seems in itself to indicate the lack of credibility in the statements and decisions made in North House. The issue has now been raised, and th university has moved to cover itself without changing the initial decision. A carbon copy of a letter allegedly sent to the state of Pennsylvania was hand carried to the newspaper just prior to going to press. This letter made no essential change in the University's desicion, or the way in which this decision was made. It merely postponed the problem, until the heat of initial confrontation was over. The question now must be raised: how are the important decisions of this university made. This decision was made without consulting any of the university community; the administrative council, the faculty senate, the student senate and the regents were all left out of tthis descision. Isn't it about time that the University of Hartford takes a good long look at the people it has making descisions and the process by which these decisions are made?

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
Towne House
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102

Gentlemen:

I wrote to you on March 17, 1970 enclosing an agreement regarding Pennsylvania Acts No. 116 and 169 of 1969.

Our agreement was prompted by concern to keep open the sources of financial aid for Pennsylvania students attending our University, and our initial conclusion was that the reporting provisions would not violate the confidential relationship between students and the University which is general in the academic world.

Meanwhile, a considerable number of other Connecticut colleges and universities have objected to the agreement, on the ground that reports to your Agency might violate confidentiality and would involve them in judgements on whether a particular student did or did not fall within certain categories, all, in the context of Pennsylvania legislation with which Connecticut institutions are unfamiliar.

Because of these uncertainties we wish to cancel the agreement until our counsel has an opportunity to study it further.

Sincerely yours
A.M. Woodruff
Chancellor