

Day

Personal and Unofficial

January 10, 1969

Rt. Rev. Bishop Richard B. Martin
Episcopal Church Diocese in Long
Island
157 Montague Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Bishop Martin:

My responsibilities as a Justice of the New York Supreme Court will not permit me to continue the present intensive level of activity for the establishment of College No. 7 of the City University in Bedford-Stuyvesant. During the past eleven months as a member of the 5-man Negotiating Team of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Coalition on Educational Needs and Services, I have devoted hundreds of hours to negotiations with representatives of the Board of Higher Education and the Coalition in an effort to create a community controlled 4-year College and to select a qualified President for the new institution.

To insure continuity of our work and the establishment of a College which will promote modern higher education for blacks, Puerto Ricans and poor youth in our area, I have asked Mr. George Meares to serve as my proxy. He will represent me in all future negotiations. Mr. Meares is a life-long leader in Brooklyn and a Director of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation.

I am obliged to warn you that grave problems still confront us in our effort to select a President of College No. 7 who will possess the requisite experience, training and commitment to serve the needs of our young

Rt. Rev. Bishop Richard B. Martin - 2 - January 10, 1969

students. It is my opinion that some of the representatives of the Board of Higher Education with whom the Negotiating Team has been dealing for almost one year do not yet comprehend what community control and participation must be to overcome the ravages of educational deprivation suffered by the youth of Bedford-Stuyvesant. These officials persist in planning for our community without consultation with our representatives. I also believe that Central Brooklyn organizations do not yet fully understand that the proposed College No. 7 involves a 34 million dollar investment of public funds and that the educational center will shape the lives and future of our ablest young men and women into the next century. The people do not realize that the new College, when built at a site we select, will become one of the largest employers of hand and mind in all of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

I urge your congregation to watch over the affairs of the Coalition and the College. Your representative ought to take an active role in the selection of the President as well as in all other aspects of this great enterprise. With perseverance and participation, I believe we can inaugurate one of the finest colleges in our nation within the next twelve months.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas R. Jones, J.S.C.

TRJ:eb