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April 15, 1968

The Honorable the Governor of Maryland
Annapolis

Sir:

The American Association of University Professors and its Maryland Conference recognize that you are currently attempting to resolve very serious civil problems, and both organizations offer you sympathy, encouragement, and assistance in this effort. One of these problems, of course, is related to recent developments at Bowie State College.

This office and the Maryland Conference were disturbed to learn of the closing of Bowie State College on April 4, 1968. They have, however, welcomed your announcement that the College will reopen after Easter vacation, and both see at this time a new opportunity to reach an amicable, rational settlement of an unfortunate academic controversy. In achieving such a settlement, it is our hope that, at a very early convenience, you and the Board of Trustees of the State Colleges will involve the Bowie State College faculty in the discussion of students' complaints and assure their commitment to the discussion until an appropriate settlement is reached.

We make this suggestion particularly because we have been given to understand that the faculty was not as fully involved in the discussions preceding the closing of the College as seems to have been desirable. No meeting of the entire faculty seems to have been called until Wednesday, April 3, the day before the closing. There had apparently been consultations with some faculty members, but, in an institutional crisis so grave as to involve the cessation of institutional activities, it seems imperative that the faculty as a whole be intellectually and morally engaged throughout the deliberations.

We hope that the resolution of this matter will be a prompt and congenial one, and that in reaching it the faculty will be invited,

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even urged, to discuss issues and possible solutions with all other
components of Bowie State College--students, administration, and
trustees.

Respectfully yours,

Bertram H. Davis

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BHD:mjw

cc: Dr. Wesley Dorn
Mr. Edmund C. Mester
Mr. Jackson Saunders

blind carbons: Professors Martha S. Putney and Raymond C. Phillips, Jr.