

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 5, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President has received the April 24-25, 1974 Report of the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy. The Board, which met at Annapolis, Maryland, is required by law to meet annually to inquire into the state of morale and discipline, the curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, financial affairs, academic methods and other matters relating to the Academy which the Board decides to consider and to report its findings to the President.

The Board consists of 15 members: six Presidential appointees, three Vice Presidential appointees, and four appointed by the Speaker of the House. The remaining two members are designated, respectively, by the Chairman of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

The Board reached the following conclusions:

1. The overall facilities development plan as structured by the Naval Academy is sound and essential to provide the Naval Academy with the required direct support facilities to continue the excellent standard already being achieved in academic and midshipmen living facilities.
2. The Naval Academy indoor physical education and athletic facilities are inadequate; Mahan Hall auditorium is inadequate in size and functional capability; air temperature in the Midshipmen's Mess and food preparation area is intolerable; personnel and midshipmen professional training support facilities at the Naval Station are inadequate and Naval Academy utilities and other supporting features are inadequate and inefficient.
3. The attrition rates for the Naval Academy between 1961 and 1973 compare reasonably with rates reported by the American Council on Education for U.S. four-year colleges and universities during the same period.

The Board made the following recommendations:

1. The Naval Academy should be established as a separate major claimant with the Superintendent reporting directly to the Chief of Naval Operations.
2. \$11 million should be earmarked annually for completion of the Naval Academy and Naval Station facilities plan.
3. The Superintendent should keep the members of the Board fully advised as to the monitoring required by the Chief of Naval Operations of the number of midshipmen in each class who are eligible in all respects for and/or desire flight training following graduation.
4. The various steps being taken to reduce the overall attrition be continued through improved selectivity in the admissions process and by strengthening the motivational aspects of the academic year and the summer cruise programs at the Academy.

The Board was composed of the following members:

Mr. Donald O. Heumann, Owner, Rohms Flowers, New Orleans,
Louisiana -- Chairman

Senator Alan Bible, Nevada
Senator Howard W. Cannon, Nevada

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Senator Hiram L. Fong, Hawaii
Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., Maryland

Congressman Jack Edwards, Alabama
Congressman Daniel J. Flood, Pennsylvania
Congresswoman Marjorie S. Holt, Maryland
Congressman Frank Horton, New York
Congressman Samuel S. Stratton, New York

Mr. Eugene A. Barham, President, T.E. Barham Company, Inc.,
Oak Ridge, Louisiana

Mr. Marion A. Cancelliere, Chairman of the Board and President,
Equimark Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Admiral Harry D. Felt, USN (Retired), President, Hawaii Foundation,
for American Freedoms, Honolulu, Hawaii

Dr. James Frank, President, Lincoln University, Jefferson City,
Missouri

Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak, USMC (Retired), Vice President,
Copley Press, San Diego, California

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