

DECEMBER 19, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has received the May 1, 1975 Report of the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy. The Board, which met at West Point, New York, 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 Chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

The Board reached the following conclusions:

1. The Academy is discharging its important mission in a highly effective manner.
2. The three major executives at the Academy, the Superintendent, the Dean of the Academic Board and the Commandant of Cadets, constitute a good team, and are exercising the kind of professional expertise, balanced judgment and firm control required.

The Board made the following recommendations:

1. That the Army vigorously support a program of construction and renovation designed to bring the Academy's athletic facilities up to parity with those of the two other Service Academies and other major American universities. Specifically, the Board recommends the provision of an artificial turf field on the level of the Plain, a modernization of the existing Field House, the construction of an adequate basketball area and the resurfacing of certain existing outdoor tennis courts.
2. That the Army continue its vigorous support of all actions necessary for the timely realization of West Point's planned new Visitor Information Center, presently in the design stage and in the Academy's FY 1977 Military Construction Program submission.

3. That the Superintendent and Army continue to exercise close and discriminating control of the Academy's management of money and manpower to the end of securing worthwhile economies, while at the same time assuring that the effective overall support essential to maintaining and operating West Point as a first-class educational and training institution not be jeopardized.

4. That the legislation currently in force which provides \$250 per month in additional pay to Permanent Professors, USMA, at completion of 36 years of commissioned service, but prohibits the use of such additional pay in the computation of retired pay, be amended to the effect that Permanent Professors, USMA, be entitled to:

- (1) an increase of \$250 per month at completion of 31 years commissioned service,
- (2) a second increase of \$250 per month at completion of 36 years commissioned service, and
- (3) such additional increases in pay be used in the computation of retired pay.

The Board was composed of the following members:

Major General Leif J. Sverdrup, USAR(Retired), Chairman of the Board,
Sverdrup and Parcel and Associates, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri --
Chairman

Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Vermont
Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., Maryland
Senator John O. Pastore, Rhode Island
Senator William Lloyd Scott, Virginia

Congressman Elford A. Cederberg, Michigan
Congressman W. C. Daniel, Virginia
Congressman Benjamin Gilman, New York
Congressman Clarence D. Long, Maryland
Congressman John M. Murphy, New York

Mr. Cary Hall, Consulting Engineer, Hampton, Georgia
Mr. Carleton J. King, Senior Member, King, Murphy, and F. Fitzpatrick,
Washington, D. C.

Major General George H. Olmstead, USAR(Retired), President and
Chairman of the Board, International Bank of Washington

Mr. Joseph T. Power, General President, Operative Plasterers and
Cement Masons International Association of the United States and
Canada, Washington, D.C.

Major General Howard S. Wilcox, USAR(Retired), Indianapolis, Indiana

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