

# The Barrister

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## Text of Kingdon Letter

The following letter was received by a student who had written to Dr. Kingdon to protest the failure to continue Dean Harris' appointment as dean.

It is printed exactly as received. In view of Dr. Kingdon's suggestion that it be shared with other students, this letter is presumably intended as outlining the administration's view-point:

"You may be interested to know that this is the first approach to me personally from any student in the New Jersey Law School. It, therefore, gives me an opportunity to say to you what I have not been able to say to any others.

"The main consideration moving me and those associated with me at the present time is the building of an educational institution. We are not primarily interested in personalities and certainly are not dominated by the consideration of them. Realizing to the full that decisions involve persons, we are nevertheless trying to see the educational objective first and to hold it before our minds steadily. No decision we have made, therefore, carries any implication of criticism or lack of appreciation of any of the persons involved in them. I am sure you realize that we have to prepare a catalogue for next year. This means that certain details must be thought through immediately and this in turn means somebody must be specifically assigned to this work. Accordingly, a more or less arbitrary decision had to be made. I do not think that you or anyone else who knows the two men involved can fail to realize that the choice was an exceedingly difficult one. I certainly should not want to undergo a cross examination on the relative merits of Dean Frazer and Dean Harris for I think both of them to be men highly regarded in their own profession, and able in the administration of a school. After a great deal of consultation and consideration, we have asked Dean Frazer to prepare the catalogue and select the faculty. His suggestions will be considered by the Law School Council, consisting of Dean Harris, Dean Frazer and myself. Nothing will be final until this Council has passed up it.

"Dean Harris will continue to teach as he has in the past. Moreover, every consideration will be given to every member of the faculty of the New Jersey Law School. Professors Tyree, Scarborough and Jacobson will, as far as I can see, be retained in their full time teaching positions. You realize that when it comes to men teaching part time, the combined faculties of the New Jersey Law School and the Mercer Beasley Law School gives us a long list, all of whom cannot be absorbed in the new faculty. The Law School Council will have to give its first thought to making a selection from among this total number.

"I realize that there are certain personal and institutional loyalties which a student establishes in his life in a school and that it is not easy for these to be quickly readjusted to meet a new situation. I think it is a tribute to the spirit of the New Jersey Law School and to the superlative qualities of Dean Harris that men like yourself feel as strongly as you do. I can only say that I believe the Board of Trustees is taking every step with the single end in view of conserving the best interests of the students. As a result of this I hope that the new organization will ultimately command the same loyalty from the students that has been manifest towards the old.

"As you know, the New Jersey Law School has been an independent corporation. As long as I was President of Dana College, I had no authority in the Law School and was not in any way responsible for its policies. It was not until Mr. Currier sold his interests to the new institution that he relinquished the directorship of the School. I point this out merely to prevent a possible misunderstanding. The two Law Schools, as far as I am concerned, stand on an equal footing and both are new problems to me. Therefore, I have neither bias nor prejudice on the one side or the other. You will doubtless be interested to know that no decision has been made in the course of merger proceedings which has not aroused heightened feelings. In every case I have tried to meet with every group to get their point of view and to explain the character of the situation. As I said on Tuesday in the open assembly in the Library and in response to a question asked from the gallery by a law school student, I shall be glad to meet with any committee of the Law School students or with the student body as a whole, if they so desire.

"I deeply appreciate the spirit of your letter. I think I understand the control which you exercised in writing it. I ask you to believe that my associates and I are dominated by feelings as high as your own and to accept our judgments, however you may disagree with them, as being the best we can arrive at on the most unselfish grounds. You may feel at liberty to share the contents of this letter with your fellow students."

## Kingdon Receives Formal Protest, Urges Students to Have Faith

Saying that an "arbitrary decision had to be made in the matter" Dr. Frank Kingdon, President of the University of Newark, met and categorically denied allegations made by a Student Council committee that the recent appointment of Spalding Frazer as Dean of the Law School of the University of Newark was in abrogation of the merger agreement. The Committee was composed of Council President Sim, Law Review Editor Endler, and William Francis Little, Jr., a member of the staff of the Barrister.

### Protest Presented

Mr. Sim presented to Dr. Kingdon a protest signed by nearly all the members of what was once New Jersey Law School objecting to the manner in which the merger agreement had been consummated and especially the lack of consideration shown Mr. Harris by the new administration. Dr. Kingdon accepted the petition and assured the committee it would be forwarded to the Board of Trustees of the University.

### Explanation Offered

After receiving the protest, Dr.

Kingdon graciously offered to outline the steps that had been taken by the Administration thus far in amalgamating the two law schools, after which he said he would be willing to answer any questions that might still linger in the minds of the members of the committee. Dr. Kingdon's statement differed little from the letter written by him to a student and printed in the Barrister to the left of this story.

### Questions Answered

In reply to a forthright question  
(Continued on Page 3)



RICHARD D. CURRIER

... resigned ... last week his picture moved

## Tibbett in 'Rigoletto' April First for Library Benefit

The Metropolitan Opera Company's production of "Rigoletto", with Lawrence Tibbett singing the title role, will be presented at the Mosque Theatre, April 1, for the benefit of the University of Newark library.

The "Met's" regular chorus and orchestra will participate, and the regular Metropolitan Opera scenery for this production, will be used. The cast includes Joseph Bentonelli, who early this season was much featured in the public prints because of his sudden rise to fame, in a manner dear to the hearts of scenario writers. Both critical opinion and public acclaim indicate that his ascendancy to stellar parts was entirely justified.

The production is being sponsored by the Griffith Piano Company. Mrs. Parker O. Griffith, a trustee of the University, initiated the plan, and the arrangements are under her supervision.

As a matter of almost purely aca-

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## Currier Letter

The following is the letter of resignation tendered by Mr. Currier to Dr. Kingdon:

Dr. Frank Kingdon, President  
University of Newark  
Newark, New Jersey

March 2, 1936.

Dear Dr. Kingdon:

I hereby submit my resignation from the Board of Trustees of the University of Newark to take effect immediately. I am also authorized to submit Mrs. Currier's resignation.

I cannot refrain from taking this opportunity to tell you how pained and shocked I am at the occurrences of the last few weeks. You are aware how the faculty and student body of our three now obliterated schools feel. Perhaps I am justified even more than they in entertaining similar feelings, having been so intimately connected with the educational situation in Newark for the last twenty-seven years. It was less than four years ago, when an affiliation with Rutgers was contemplated, that a great cry was raised about the unfairness of having an institution outside of Newark come into the educational field and possibly control that field at the college level. Certain members of your present board rushed to New Brunswick to prevent such an outrage from being perpetrated. Newark could and would, it was argued, support its own institution.

I wonder what has taken place during the last four years to so change the situation as to now justify the proposed agreement with New York University, an institution which by no stretch of the imagination has any excuse for being in Newark if Rutgers should be excluded, as was so stoutly maintained a few brief months ago.

I cannot but feel even more deeply the great injustice you have done to Dean Harris, and New Jersey Law School, both faculty and alumni. It is not simply a breach of good faith, but actually a violation of the merger agreement.

I have recently withdrawn approximately ten thousand books of the law library. At the time of the now clearly misnamed "merger", I offered to donate them to the University if it would agree to qualify its law school for admission in the Association of American Law Schools. The offer, as you know, was summarily rejected.

I fail to see how you can justify the rape of New Jersey Law School, the school which was the first law school in New Jersey, the only law school in the state which ever qualified for recognition by the Board of Regents in New York, the law school which founded Dana College and Seth Boyden School of Business, and the school from which the fund to make up the deficits of these schools was derived. Is it not almost certain that the proposed wholesale cut in law school salaries is bound to result in a lowering of the standards maintained by New Jersey Law School for the past quarter of a century? It is indeed a lamentable situation you have created.

I am frank to say that with the sudden change in plan for "a local university, locally controlled" there does not seem to be any valid reason for the continuance of the University of Newark.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) RICHARD D. CURRIER.

