

December 11, 1945

Mr. Marion Smith, Chairman  
Board of Regents  
University System of Georgia  
Hurt Building  
Atlanta, Georgia

Progress Report on New Building

Dear Mr. Smith:

In the effort to convert the Ivy Street Garage into a college building with only \$85,000 available, it looks as if we may comfortably house several thousand students, and that is all. Many things we wished to do will have to be left until some later day.

1. Tucker's \$7000 plan. (a) The lowest bid we could get on Tucker's heating and air-circulation plan was \$49,000. By re-arranging the plan on expert advice from several qualified experts, we got a contract, and the men are doing the work for \$21,000. By enlarging the already constructed toilet facilities and by not having them on the same side of the house that Tucker's plans called for, we saved exactly \$6,800.

(b) The lowest bid on Tucker's electrical plans was \$42,000. Again we brought several experts into the picture, and the contract we let and which is almost complete is \$16,000.

The statement Tucker originally made to me, two months before Driftmier brought him back into the picture, was that his professional estimators said it would cost \$80,000 a floor. With his plans, that figure would have been conservative.

2. This is how the saving is being made. (a) All the lumber we needed was a gift from the army at Bell Bomber plant, some of which we are selling for cash to buy other materials.

(b) Sixty glass blackboards, the latest in schoolroom fixtures, which sold to the army for \$2,370. The price we secured them for, brand new and still in the original crates, was \$300.

(c) Forty-seven tons of iron pipe, all sizes, a gift from the army at Oak Ridge. Some of this we can use, the other we will store and sell as other materials are needed.

(d) Six hundred oak and plywood folding chairs made by the American Seating Company and priced by them for \$4, which we obtained for \$1.35 each.

(e) Chemistry and physics equipment valued at \$5000 from Huntsville, Alabama, also a gift from the army.

(f) Cleaning of the building by Fulton County convicts is saving \$3000 on the estimated cost by Tucker

(g) Toilet fixtures and fluorescent lights are promised next week by the Bell Bomber Plant.

An item of unanticipated expense of several thousand dollars is in sandblasting the calcimine from the ceiling and walls of the garage. All the paint people have told us that paint will not adhere to calcimine. The sandblasting is to be finished by Saturday. The work was a day, night, and Sunday job because other workmen had to lay off during the sandblasting.

Any lease that Anderson, Clayton & Co. has will be worthless to them when we move in, and they are told that day they cannot classify cotton in the building. Even if they remained there, they couldn't function in the handling of cotton. So our good friend, Brother Bob Troutman had better tell Brother Levy to find a place for his inflammable cotton.

I worked on the contractors for several weeks about taking down the signs. Finally I "chiseled" them down from \$90 to \$35. The signs should all be down by the end of the week, and the sandstone front of the first floor cleaned by sandblasting.

The big garage doors and side door have been sold for enough to put in new office building doors and a vestibule at the entrance.

We have already increased office space rentals for the coming year, and when ground floor rentals begin coming in, there should be a considerable increase.

Parking lot income for the first week showed our ownership for the month would bring in \$354. The garage on the lot has never functioned as an operating unit, but when a suitable tenant is found, it should add \$100 a month to the \$354 income.

December 11, 1945

This morning our army friend at Bell Bomber telephoned he is sending us 350 gallons of good paint and three truck loads of conduit for wiring and casing; also 10,000 square feet of acoustic ceiling Celotex, enough for offices and the cafeteria.

It took a great deal of patience and friendly contacting during the past three months to have all this government prize dumped in our lap. And the best part of the plan is that we have been able to turn all our contacts over to Ben Moore, of the Regents' office. Our Doctor Herod, who was twenty months at Oak Ridge working on the atomic bomb, was able to get him into the inner circle. They spent three days there last week and left again this morning. By the process of elimination, we have found during the past several months those in each government agency on whom you can depend for favors to colleges. All this information we have given Ben Moore, who is now doing a most enthusiastic job for the other units.

Cordially yours

GEO. M. SPARKS  
Director

GMS:h