

## Text of a statement by President Robert Gordon Sproul of the University of California, 12 May 1956

**May 13, 1956**

Friday noon, in my address dedicating the new wing of William E. Ritter Hall on the La Jolla campus of the University of California, I pointed out that, in the relatively short period of my presidency of the University, the annual expenditure of money by the Scripps Institution on research had increased twenty-five fold; that the teaching and research staff had grown ten-fold; whereas the building space had grown only three-fold. I directed attention to these facts because they bring into sharp focus the great need for the building we were dedicating, as well as for future capital improvements, additional land, and more staff.

Nor was I unmindful, as I stood on the platform at the ceremonies of dedication, that from the rugged hills to the eastward of the campus might come our aid, for there lies the tract of land that your Mayor and City Councilmen have magnanimously suggested be transferred to the University for the expansion of its La Jolla campus and the development thereon of an even greater institution -- a transfer that the people of the City of San Diego, I am informed, will be asked to approve at an election of June 5 next.

I hope that the voters will not take it amiss if I say that I look with much favor upon this proposal for the enlargement of the La Jolla campus, so that its service to science, to the youth of this community, and to the future of our state and nation in the Atomic Age may be increased and improved.

It is to the end that such a development may come to pass, that The Regents of the University are even now considering the proposal for an Institute of Pure and Applied Physics and an Institute of Mechanics, that was first formally presented to the December 16, 1955 meeting of The Regents. Since that date, and pursuant to a Regents' resolution then voted, a Special Faculty Committee, with Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Nobel Laureate, as chairman, and a membership of scientists and engineers of like distinction, has been studying the proposal. Simultaneously, the Joint Staff of the Liaison Committee between the State Department of Education and The Regents of the University has been conducting a similar study under the direction of Dr. Hubert H. Semans and Dr. Thomas C. Holy, and a third committee representing the Academic Senate of the University, on all of its campuses, has been doing likewise.

These three committees will be ready to report to The Regents at their next meeting, on May 18, shortly after which some definitive action may be expected, looking toward the development of the activities of the University in the San Diego area. Such development, I hardly need to emphasize, would be a powerful stimulant to the already vigorous growth of this dynamic community as a center of the science, culture and industry of an age dependent upon research discoveries and their application. Such development would also be a sound basis for the investment of millions of dollars, not only of public funds, but also of private capital.