

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

In connection with the projection of the School of Public Affairs, memoranda concerning which are being submitted at this time, it has been thought that certain facts suggestive of the fitness of The American University as the seat of such a school might not be unwelcome.

The Trustees and the Chancellor of The American University find the purpose of the University as defined in the Act of its incorporation peculiarly congenial to such an experiment in special education as the project contemplates; its site exceptionally advantageous; its development to the present date more than ordinarily friendly to the changes which may be necessitated in the creation of such a school; not a few of the minds which it has attracted to its trusteeship distinctly significant; and their own attitude toward what may be the conditions required by the General Education Board frankly docile. In very brief amplifica-

tion of this statement, they would call your attention to the following somewhat more detailed observations:

THE DEFINITE AIM OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY as given in the Act of Incorporation is simply "to establish and maintain in the District of Columbia a university for the promotion of education." The Chancellor and the Trustees are of the opinion that this simple definition of purpose, so plainly stated in the Act of Incorporation, completely safe-guards the freedom of action necessary for the initiation and maintenance of such an experiment as the proposed School of Public Affairs, and offers the autonomy required in dealing from time to time with whatever educational problems may arise for the solution of which there are no precedents.

THE SITE OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY offers advantages which are obvious when the facts are known. It occupies a campus of eighty acres within the limits of the District of Columbia; its present buildings, eight in number, valued, without their contents, at more than two million dollars, being but twenty minutes by bus or automobile from the White House. This campus and the buildings are unencumbered by any mortgage. In addition, the University owns and at present houses its Graduate

School in properties comprising half a city block, two blocks north of the State, War and Navy Building. These properties are available either for the location of new and more suitable Graduate School buildings, as the need may develop, or to offset, as security, the debt of the University which is in the form of trustee notes but which represents only 11% of the University's assets. A campus of such acreage, so adjacent to the galleries, libraries and government buildings of the Nation's Capital, offers a coincidence of academic isolation with opportunities of cosmopolitan experience such as cannot be duplicated elsewhere.

THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY began with its incorporation in 1893; its Graduate School was opened with an address by President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914. Its College of Liberal Arts entered its first class in September 1925. The University, in a word, is old enough to have established itself firmly in the loyalties and concerns of a growing constituency while, at the same time, it is young enough to have no traditions which any exigencies of the School of Public Affairs might contravene and no restricting precedents to be overcome.

SIGNIFICANT MEN HAVE SERVED upon its Board of Trustees and working committees, whose eager participation in its management bears witness to their constant sensitiveness to the University's responsibility to the national life. Among these significant men have been Theodore Roosevelt, Warren G. Harding, Charles W. Fairbanks, William J. Bryan, Arthur C. True. At the present time, the Honorable Josephus Daniels is serving his 14th year, Daniel C. Roper Secretary of the Department of Commerce; has been a trustee for thirteen years; and Mr. David Lawrence, one of the more recent members, is among the most active.

THE TRUSTEES, ALREADY COMMITTED to the project of the School of Public Affairs, are eager to co-operate with the General Education Board in such re-organization and strengthening of the University as the project may demand.