

Advisory Council,
The Northern Virginia Center
1206 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Va.
Mrs. Ruth Frank JA 7-3125

June 7, 1956

The Advisory Council to the Northern Virginia Center of the University of Virginia voted tonight to select historic Ravensworth Farm as their first choice for a site for the future college in Northern Virginia. The Council's recommendation will be placed before the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors for approval at the Board's next meeting which will be held in Charlottesville on June 17th.

The selection of the site is subject to receiving a satisfactory reply with resp. to purch. of addtl. land.

Ravensworth was owned in earlier years by William Henry Fitzhugh, who died childless in 1830, at which time the property descended to the children of his niece, Mrs. Robert E. Lee of Arlington. The land is now owned by several members of a syndicate.

The farm and adjoining acreage lie between Annandale and Springfield in the southeast section of Fairfax County. Total value of the gift of land, buildings and cash is estimated at about \$400,000, and is being contributed by Edward R. Carr and Associates, James L. McIlvaine and Associates, and John C. Mowbray and Associates, all owners of considerable acreage in the Springfield area. Although exact boundaries have not as yet been fixed, it is estimated that the campus of the College will occupy 140 to 240 acres.

The College ^{would} will receive an outright gift of 50 acres of the Ravensworth Farm, including dwellings and outbuildings (whose estimated duplication value is about \$200,000), with an approximate frontage on the south side of Braddock Road in Springfield of 2,000 feet. About 25 additional acres adjoining the farm ^{would} will also be contributed. The College ^{would} will be given an 18-month option to buy tracts of neighboring acreage to complete its campus. The sum of \$67,500 in cash ^{would} will be given by the landowners jointly.

Located about 4 miles from the present center of population of

Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County and Falls Church, the site is adjacent to a proposed circumferential highway cloverleaf, making easy transit and access to the ^{proposed} College grounds.

Purchase of the optioned land, which must ^{would} be accomplished within the next 18 months, will require a concerted fund drive by the local citizenry. It is anticipated that such a drive will start as soon as the machinery ^{would} can be set in motion, ~~with the four members of the Board taking the lead.~~ Local citizens' groups in the Springfield area have already raised \$10,000 in pledges for the College which they have been hoping ^{would} choose their bailiwick for its home. Once ~~the~~ land has been acquired and a building program started, the General Assembly ^{would be asked} ~~is expected~~, at its next session, to appropriate funds for the continued operation of the College.

Buildings now situated on Ravensworth have been gone over from ground to rooftops by Professor J.N.G. Finley, Director of the present Northern Virginia Center, in the company of a consultant architect. The plan ^{would be} is to get them in classroom shape by next Fall at a cost of about \$70,000. The newly authorized College would thus be in a position to start immediate operation, offering the first two years of a college education, as well as a terminal program for students interested in a college education totalling two years.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has already taken action to set aside the sum of \$40,000 as its share in the first year's operation for the new College. Proportionate amounts which would bring the total to \$100,000 have been requested of Alexandria (\$20,000), Arlington (\$38,000), and Falls Church (\$2,000). The requests are now under consideration.

Precedent for fees, programs of study, and standards of admission have already been set by the University in the first such Branch which was established two years ago at its Clinch Valley College in southwest Virginia. This College was also started by the efforts of an active

citizenry to meet the demands of a rapidly expanding college-age population which cannot be taken care of unless additional facilities are provided for them and at a cost which they can afford.

List of Council members to be provided with this release

Hand added.

~~sent that Center will continue to operate at present site~~