

Committee Backs Medical College

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Vote Unanimous; Prompt Action On House Floor Is Expected

By HARVEY FORD
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COLUMBUS, Nov. 11—The House Education Committee today unanimously approved the bill establishing a state college of medicine in Toledo.

Rep. Robert Longworth (R., Carroll County), chairman of the committee, said it was his understanding that the bill would be voted on by the House promptly.

Motion to approve was made by Dr. Harold Oyster, member of the committee and chairman of the Ohio Board of Regents.

At the same session, the Education Committee also unanimously approved a multimillion-dollar state university for Cleveland. It was expected that this bill also would be voted on quickly by the House.

The committee ended its hearings on the bill last night. Rep. Ray Hildebrand (R., Toledo), sponsor of the measure, presented a parade of witnesses in behalf of it.

They included Dr. Harold Oyster, a committee member and chairman of the Ohio board of regents; Dr. John D. Millett, chancellor of the regents; Dr. William S. Carlson, president of the University of Toledo; Dr. Frank Rawling, president of the Toledo Area Medical School Foundation; Hart Page, assistant executive secretary of the Ohio State Medical Association; Willard Smith, TU vice president, and Robert Konwin, counsel for the city of Toledo.

Tax Issue Raised

Education Committee members Marigene Valiquette (D., Toledo), and Ethel Swanbeck (R., Sandusky) strongly endorsed the bill. Myrl Shoemaker (D., Chillicothe) said that he supports the bill but warned that the Toledo medical school and the proposed Cleveland state university would be expensive and may require a revision of the state tax structure.

Mrs. Clara Weisenborn (R., Dayton) said that she thinks as good a case might be made for Dayton as for Toledo as the site for the medical school.

Dr. Oyster replied that all previous studies by experts have established that Toledo has the greatest need and therefore is the most suitable location.

He noted that the Penrod report, commissioned by the regents, said that Toledo has a pressing need for hospital facilities.

Background Given

Dr. Oyster added that the Penrod report also recommended a close association between the medical school and TU, and pointed out that, under Dr. Carlson's leadership the university is developing a good graduate program.

Dr. Millett reviewed the history of the project, pointing out that since 1958 studies have established that Ohio's three existing medical schools are not enough.

The state's interim commission for education beyond the high school recommended Toledo as the site in 1962, and this recommendation was repeated by the regents last September.

Mr. Smith said that, if the Legislature acts now, the first students can be admitted in the fall of 1968. He added that it will be 8 to 10 years before the first graduates are in medical practice.

The TU vice president estimated the construction cost at about \$31 million and Dr. Oyster agreed. Dr. Millett said the cost might go beyond this, but that much of the expense would be borne by the Federal Government.

Dr. Millett estimated the operating cost at \$4 million a year for a school of 96 students.

Mr. Longworth said that the state cannot wait until it has all the money in hand to pay for the school.

Mr. Smith noted that no application can be made for federal aid until the Legislature has established the school.

Dr. Rawling said a citizens' group in Toledo has worked five years on the project and already has laid the groundwork for a federal subsidy. He added that the medical school has the support of the Toledo Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Carlson pointed out that TU has dedicated 50 acres to the medical school and promised full university cooperation.

Mr. Page explained that the heavily populated Lake Erie shore area needs a medical school.

Mr. Konwin presented a unanimous resolution of the Toledo City Council in favor of the bill.

State Support

Under House Bill 7, the measure to establish a state college of medicine in Toledo stipulates that the General Assembly shall provide financial support.

The governor is authorized to appoint nine trustees with the approval of the Senate. Trustees' terms are for nine years. The first board would be appointed to terms of from one to nine years.

The trustees would be authorized to hire a president and teaching staff, maintain the college, and conclude any arrangements with TU required for the operation.

The bill is classified as an emergency measure so the governor could appoint the trustees as soon as the measure is passed.

This means the bill must pass by a two-thirds edge. Dr. Oyster said after the meeting that he is confident of legislative approval.