January 24, 1951

Mr. Fred S. Keating
Special Research Assistant
State Capitol Building
Sacramento 14, California

Dear Mr. Keating:

Your letter of January 17, concerning the Drug and Oil Plant Project, formerly conducted by Mr. Monroe Kidder through the California State Polytechnic College, has been received.

In your letter you quoted from a report made to the Joint Interim Subcommittee on Agriculture by Mrs. Millikan in which she quoted me as stating in Mr. Wright's office in March, 1950 that I was very willing to have Mr. Kidder's project back in the college provided money to carry on the project did not come from our specific college fund.

I deny that I made such a statement, either in Mr. Wright's office in March, 1950 or at any other time. Mr. Harold Wilson, who was then Dean of our Voorhis Unit at San Dimas, and myself were invited by Mrs. Millikan to attend a meeting in Mr. Wright's office at that time. Both of us remember that I was very emphatic in telling the group that was present that Mr. Kidder's project, which is experimental and promotional, is not in keeping with the general purposes of the California State Polytechnic College. I also told the group that, while Mr. Kidder was connected with California Polytechnic, he had consistently failed to follow State procedures in conducting the business functions for which he was responsible. This continued even after I had assigned one of our regular employees to help him in this connection. I made these same statements publicly before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee of the Legislature on at least two occasions. I also stated in Mr. Wright's office that I did not want Mr. Kidder's program connected with our college because of the experiences that we had while it was previously assigned to us and also because it did not conform to the objectives of this college.

I cannot remember in exact detail the discussion that followed these statements in Mr. Wright's office, but I do remember that one of the group inferred that there was a possibility that California Polytechnic had better accept Mr. Kidder's program again or pressure might be exerted to reduce its support budget. In answer to such an inference, I believe I stated that I was only

a State employee and that, if higher authority made such a demand upon us, naturally we would have to accede. I also stated that, under such circumstances, I would insist that, if Mr. Kidder or anyone else were to work under my direction, they would have to follow proper procedure and be directly answerable to me.

In direct answer to your question concerning the quotation from the report mentioned above, I definitely state that I am not in agreement with it.

We have no record of Mr. Kidder ever having received a Doctors Degree. He often mentioned his experiences in various capacities, and I particularly remember that at one time he planned to ask one of the universities to confer upon him an Honorary Doctors Degree. I have never heard whether or not he had received one.

Hoping this answers your questions, I am

Very sincerely yours,

President, California
State Polytechnic College

JAM:ner

cc: WILSON
NELSON