

To the Hon. James H. Cravens Chairman of the
Legislative Investigating Committee.

Sir I have had placed in my hands by you
a document purporting to be a true copy of a
Memorial signed by myself and three other
trustees of Indiana University which was pre-
sented to the General Assembly of the State of
Indiana at its session in 1839 & 40; after a
careful perusal of the document, justice
to myself, to Dr Wylie, to the three other trustees
whose names are attached to said memorial
and above all justice to truth constrain me
to say that the following ^{words} in said doc-
ument, ~~which~~ ^{across} which, a pen has been run
were not in the original memorial as drafted
by me and as the same went out of my hands
to Mr Turner (I think) to wit: "we would further
beg leave to represent that though a large major-
ity of the people of this and the adjoining counties
are opposed to the present heads of the University,
yet we believe there is not a solitary indivi-
dual opposed to the Institution itself." If the words
which I have just quoted had constituted a part
of the memorial, then Dr Wylie would have had
just grounds to have supposed that it was the
intention of the memorialists to prefer
charges against him or in some way to at-
tack his character as President of the Facul-
ty of Indiana University, I do not however
consider that those words constitute really any
portion of the memorial, lines appear to have
been run across them with a pen evidently

with the intention of obliterating them, thereby
showing to the reader that they constitutes no
portion of the document, these words when
read to me by Dr Foster I promptly ordered to
be struck out declaring in indignant terms
at the same time that my object as one of the
memorialists was not to prefer charges against
Dr Wylie or even to censure upon him
that I would not permit by any consent any
communication to be printed to the Legisla-
ture in which Dr Wylie's name was mentioned,
together with several other statements expla-
natory of my views in relation to the subject
matter of the memorial, and to which if incor-
porated in this communication would swell
it to an unreasonable length; I deem it pro-
per for my own justification to state that the
power exercised by Dr Foster in interlining or
otherwise inserting in the original memorial
any such sentiments or indeed any sentiments
other than those plainly expressed in it as drafted
by me was wholly unauthorized, and I felt in-
dignant at the time and plainly told Dr Foster
that any personal vindictive feelings which he
might entertain towards Dr Wylie should not
be endorsed by me, that Dr Wylie had always
treated me with respect, that we were thus
upon intimate & friendly terms, that towards
him I entertained no feelings of hostility nor
should I manifest any. I deem it proper to
make this additional statement, to wit:
that in the memorial drafted by me Dr Wylie
was exculpated entirely from any abuse of his
privilege to act as a member of the Board of

trustees in ^acertain emergency, in the document
handed to me by you, I find no such language. This ^{current report} ~~document~~ of the original Omenio
rial was unauthorized by me, indeed I did not
know until a short time since that, that por-
tions of the memorial had been omitted - of this
I was ^{latently} informed by Dr Fortes; I will also ^{renew that from} inform
this portion of the memorial as it now stands
the obvious conclusion to which any reflecting
mind must come, is that Dr Wylic had al-
ready that power conferred upon him by the
Charter of the University; as drafted by me &
when it left my hand, Dr Wylic was entirely
acquitted of any such imputations, I believe
I did ^{consent that} tell Dr Fortes ~~when he asked me if he~~
might ^{a little} prune the memorial, in copying it
where there was a repetition of words, or a
redundancy of language. ^{this however was done at his request} ~~that he~~ I consented
I expressly stating at the same time that no
change of words amounting to a change of
sentiment would be tolerated. indeed I did
not want Dr Fortes to have any thing to do
with this memorial. I was apprised of the
ill feelings existing between him & Dr Wylic
nor do I know how he came to intermeddle in
it, I will further state that I told Dr Fortes
that ^{the} communication should not be sent
to the Legislature until Mr Thompson's
name was appended to it, and that although
I had authority from Mr Thompson to
sign his name to any communication
my judgement might dictate as proper, that
I should not receive it, that Mr Thompson
would pass through Blooming ton on his way to

the Whig Convention at Indianapolis, when
he could read the memorial for himself & sign
his own name to it, yet in violation of
this plainly expressed wish on my part Mr
Thompson was not waited for, but the com-
munication was sent off without his name
to it, I furthermore wrote to Col Berry our
Senator that if the communication had not
been presented ^{to the Senate} when he received my letter, to
withhold its presentation until Mr Thomp-
son ^{should} sign it, & that if he did not sign it ~~to not to~~
present it at all, these statements I can corrobor-
ate by Col Berry at any time; I want also to
mention that I have been thus particular in my state-
ments in order to place my motives in a proper aspect
before this committee, indeed I have left
out numerous other evidences of my indispo-
sition to accuse Dr My lie of mal conduct
not however from any disposition to retract
or disclaim any portion of the original mem-
orial, this is a thing I never expect to do, nor do I
wish to avoid any responsibility which I am plac-
ed under to my fellow members of the Board
of trustees, far from it, I desire a full investiga-
tion into the truth or falsity of the statements con-
tained in the original memorial, I desire to
have pointed out to me any material error in the same
I ~~desire to know~~ ^{ask} if the number of our students
has not declined with unprecedented rapidity
I desire to know how we are flourishing - In a word
what are our prospects ahead,

~~Very respectfully~~
Yours truly
L. J. [Signature]

If indeed the paucity in the number of our students is evidence of our flourishing condition then truly is Indiana University ^{at} prospering very nearly to the Zenith of prosperity.

But I desire a full & candid investigation into the material facts contained in the memorial ~~which I deny the right of the Board of Trustees of the University to assign me for my opinions or an expression of them in a decent & becoming manner. I deny utterly the right to formulate the action of this Committee as I believe has been done by a late resolution adopted at a late meeting of the Board, and now challenge an investigation into the truth of the statements made by me in the original memorial - let us not resolve any longer that we are doing well when the humiliating fact stares us in the face that our march is downwards with rapid strides.~~

In relation to a communication now in my hands & which I presume is before the Investigating Committee signed by A. Wylie and directed to the Board of Trustees. And of its general character I have nothing at present to say that portions of ^{the memorial referred to in this document} which is partly oblique & if read in the hearing of the Representatives of the 800,000 people mentioned in the Petition was ^(as far as the memorial is concerned & its reading) an act of injustice done to Dr Wylie without my knowledge or consent. Having as I hope I believe pretty clearly defined the position which I occupy I shall in another communication attempt to assign some of the reasons which have occurred to my mind why our University has

not flourished. I respectfully ask this communication to spread upon the records of this Committee and made a part of their proceedings.

Yours respectfully
Paris C. Dunning

Ed Barry being called on by
J. Dunning, corroborates the
statement within made in
reference to that part of the
memorial to the Legislature
which appears to have been made
for the being called on a similar
that the memorial was to say not
in the original draft -
Hon J. R. Craven Chairman

Mr Dunning

Answer of

Do C