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Haenicke Makes Four Commitments During His Inauguration Speech

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$27.1 million approved for new construction

Gov. James J. Blanchard January 2 signed a capital outlay bill that provides $27.1 million in new construction for Western—$15 million in major modifications and an addition to Walo Library, and $12.1 million for a new building for the College of Business.

Both houses of the Michigan legislature had passed the bill December 16. January 2 was the deadline for the governor to sign or veto the bill; otherwise, the bill would have become law without the governor's signature.

In the interim, three members of the Blanchard administration—Phillip J. Jouard, chief of staff; Robert H. Nathaly, director of the Department of Management and Budget; and Lyman C. Schaefer, executive assistant to Nathaly—visited the campuses of Western, Ferris State College, and Central Michigan University on December 30. Their fact-finding visits were to personally assess the need for such new construction.

After spending two and a half hours with President Dieter H. H. Haenicke, Board of Trustees Chair Fred W. Adams of Comstock, and Administration-Phillip J. Jourdan, chief of staff; Robert H. Haenicke, executive assistant to Nathaly—visited the campuses of Western, Ferris State College, and Central Michigan University on December 30. Their fact-finding visits were to personally assess the need for such new construction.

"I'm delighted. This is a great way to start the new year," Haenicke said when he learned of the governor's signing. The bill also includes $270,000 for the McGracken Hall addition that is currently under construction. This figure represents the full capital outlay of the state's $12.1 million for the paper pilot plant addition.

The bill also includes $500,000 for the Robert A. Weilbom Project, which will provide more space in the Harding's Building, where the University's current locations is housed. The allocation brings state support to $900,000 of the required $1.3 million for this project.

The capital outlay bill actually provides planning money—$325,000 for Walo Library and $325,000 for the building business—in the 1985-86 fiscal year. Construction on these two projects probably would start sometime in 1986.


"As a public service to workers and managers,

Classes toward bachelor's degree offered at General Motors plant

WMU administrators saw the opportunity for a joint venture and contacted GM-BOC. "As long as business and industry are indicating a need for training for people, it's logical that colleges and universities develop linkages," Vander Weyden said.

The classes are of the same academic quality and students use the same textbooks as on campus.

According to Vander Weyden, the "classroom in the workplace" is a growing trend in industry. New technology, he said, is creating a greater need for a more educated workforce and for retraining workers.

And that's where Western comes in. "It's to the industry's advantage to provide more education to those workers it already employs," Vander Weyden said. "Many of these people have a long-term investment in the company and really know the ins and outs of the business. It is also to the workers' advantage to receive more training."

At GM-BOC, United Auto Workers-GM employees are provided with training dollars through their contract. Salared employees have a tuition assistance program which provides funds for education.

As public service to workers and managers...