Dr. Weaver resigns

WHY DID WEAVER DO IT?

ANALYSIS by Joel Seidner

Dr. Weaver came to Baruch from his post as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C. Perhaps things were not to his satisfaction there. Some of us recall the time he said he didn't like the committee system because it took too much time to operate if it ever got past the talking stage.

Washington, D.C. and the Housing and Urban Development Department were full of committees. But Weaver wanted his Model Cities program to move faster than it was moving. Since the bureaucracy couldn't move faster, Weaver went looking at the same time as the Board of Higher Education was eyeballing candidates for the presidency of the newly created Baruch College.

The Keppeli report formed the ideology of Baruch College: a socially conscious institution to expand from a business curriculum into a college with a liberal arts curriculum that would first serve as an adjunct to the business school.

The Board of Higher Education had some good plans for the new Baruch College. Questions put to the community of Baruch College in Brooklyn, all line up with one point of view: the area wanted a college that emphasized business and commerce. Atlantic Terminal is a deprived area in downtown Brooklyn.

In 1968, Baruch College was already bustling at the seams. Full-open admissions was only seven years away (then, before the full open admissions program was started in 1970). Looking for new space was a chore that occupied much time from the administration of new Baruch College. At the same time as all this, a temporary expansion was taking place, plans to implement the CUNY Master Plan were in progress.

These plans included the development of new Baruch College in the Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn.

Baruch needed a president; Weaver needed a job of prestige. As a servant of the public for so many years, perhaps he wanted to make a run for an elected office. The presidency of a college certainly is a good credential... Conjecture: The Board of Higher Education offered Weaver the presidency and he accepted with his idea that when the Atlantic Terminal facility was to be functional, Weaver would run it as a model community, a model college, in much the same manner and idea as had been Weaver's concept in setting up the Model Cities program.

But 1970 brought a money pinch. In the letter to the Board of Higher Education, Weaver points out the proportionately smaller amount of funds for Baruch College and the bigger job the College has to fulfill now.

Weaver, we believe, never did like the committee system because it was too slow, too cumbersome to act in an effective manner.

One of the by-laws in CUNY gives the president of a new college five years to act on all the by-laws as long as the by-laws are maintained. This would have seemed to satisfy Weaver. But with no funds to spend on a new liberal arts school, and the expansion of Baruch College in any other ways, Robert C. Weaver pulled out to serve Urban Models.

Robert C. Weaver—A definite case of financial woes.

THE BOARD IS SURPRISED

Decision Made Last April

Dr. Robert C. Weaver today submitted to the Board of Higher Education his resignation as president of the City University of New York's Bernard M. Baruch College.

In his letter of resignation to Board Chairman Frederick Burkhardt; Dr. Weaver cited the "uncertainty and inadequacy of financing from city and state" at CUNY.

His resignation will be effective September 1, 1970.

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June 22, 1970

Student Leaders Act

STUDENT LEADERS ACT IN STUDENT INTEREST

Upon notification of the resignation of Robert Weaver as President of Baruch College, the following telegram was sent to the Chairman of the Board of Higher Education:

Dr. Frederick Burkhardt
Chairman
Board of Higher Education
53 East 80th Street
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Burkhardt:

As representatives of student opinion, and as elected leaders of student activities, we respectfully request that suitable student representation from Bernard M. Baruch College be part of any search committee for the selection of a new president of Baruch College.

Other student leaders' names will be added to this letter as they are reached at their summer residences.

We may be reached through Ticker, Box 9C Baruch College, 17 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York.

(Signed)

Joel Seidner, Editor of Ticker

Edward Carpenter, General Manager

WBMB Radio

Margaret Messine, V.P. of Boleters

Albert Karo, President of IFG
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Washington, D.C. and the Housing and Urban Development Department were full of committees. But Weaver wanted his Model Cities program to move faster than it was moving. Since the bureaucracy couldn't move faster, Weaver went looking at the same time as the Board of Higher Education was eyeballing candidates for the presidency of the newly created Baruch College.

The Keppel report formed the ideology of Baruch College: a socially conscious institution to expand from a business curriculum into a college with a liberal arts curriculum that would first serve as an adjunct to the business school.

The Board of Higher Education had some good plans for the new Baruch College. Questions just to the community came rushing in Brooklyn, all set up with one point of view: the area wanted a college that emphasized business and commerce. Atlantic Terminal in a deserted area in downtown Brooklyn.

In 1968, Baruch College was already bursting at the seams. Full open admissions was only seven years away then, before the full open admissions program was started in 1970. Looking for new space was a chore that occupied much time from the administration of new Baruch College. At the same time as all this temporary expansion was taking place, plans to implement the CUNY Master Plan were in progress.

The Keppel report included the development of new Baruch College in the Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn.

Baruch needed a president; Weaver needed a job of prestigious value. As a servant of the public for so many years, he wanted to make a run for an elected office. The presidency of a college certainly is a good credential...

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This would have seemed to satisfy Weaver. But with no funds to spend on a new liberal arts school, and the expansion of Baruch College in many other ways, Robert C. Weaver pulled out to serve the University in another way.

Dr. Weaver told the New York Times of June 23, 1970, that he made his decision to resign in April, the month of the fees, SEEK, government abortions...

At one of the early meetings between students and Weaver, he was questioned as to what he would do about certain BHE actions. He said something to the effect that if he could not in good conscience carry out a decision of the BHE, he had no business working for them. He was then asked, at the same meeting, if this meant he would resign if there was a fee increase. He looked around for a word, perhaps he thought the students knew of his intentions to resign. He answered the question with a flat "No."

This resignation can certainly be called as the Monday morning quarterbacks. Weaver gave the address at commencement, a speaking engagement usually reserved for an invited dignitary. In fact, it was a fairwell speech of sorts, even though few knew of it.

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"We regret Dr. Weaver's resignation and understand the reasons that prompted it. A deeply committed scholar and public servant, we are pleased that he has agreed to remain a member of the university faculty and as a consultant to the university administration."

Frederick Burkhardt, chairman Board of Higher Education

"Robert C. Weaver: A definite case of financial woes.

Dr. Weaver resigns in the context of the Keppel Report, which outlined a challenging mission for the new institution, and of the Board of Higher Education's announced policy that the primary responsibility of the president is to conserve and enhance the educational program of the college. In other words, I accepted the task of building the college into an instrument capable of fulfilling the mission assigned to it.

To date, largely because of uncertainty.

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Robert C. Weaver resigns from Baruch College, c. 1970.

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(Signed)

J. Goldner, Editor of Ticker

A. Tisser, Editor of Accountant

M. Lewandowski, V.P. of Carden

E. Carpenter, General Manager

WBMB Radio

M. Messina, V.P. of Booster Club

A. Klar, President of IFG

The BIG TWO

Comment on the Man

"Bob Weaver's resignation is, of course, a profound loss to Baruch College where, during the short period of his presidency, he has earned the respect and affection of faculty and students.

"We are delighted that President Weaver has agreed to remain with City University as a member of the faculty and as an adjunct to the Board of Higher Education and . . ."

Chancellor Albert H. Bowker

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TICKER
Summer 70
no. 1
JUNE 24, 1970

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The final version of the City University's revised academic calendar was approved on Wednesday June 10. Registration for the Fall Semester will begin on Thursday, September 3. Classes will begin on Monday, September 7, and the pre-election recess will begin on Wednesday, October 21, and continue through Thanksgiving, November 25.

The new calendar also included one-day holidays in observance of Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Human Rights Day. Rush Hashana will be observed in the traditional two-day holiday. Winter recess extends from December 24 through December 26.

Students with specific questions on matters pertaining to the new calendar are requested to call the office of the registrar at their college.

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