

**NOTES ON PROCEEDINGS OF THE
88TH CONVOCATION OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND
INAUGURATION OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND
THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
DR. JAMES E. ALLEN, JR.**

May 4, 1956

- The message from Governor Harriman says very little except to note that he was “forced to disapprove a bill passed by the Legislature which would have required the Trustees of the State University to proceed with the construction of a particular institution which the Regents had not approved. I did so at the request of the Regents.” This is terribly confusing since it is the Regents in their report, Volume 29, which propose the creation of such an institution and the legislative approval for it appears to have support of both the Regents and the Trustees. In fact, it appears as though it is the Regents that initiate this proposal for a college on Long Island. It likely appears that Harriman is quite hesitant about commitment to establish University and the following statement of his would seem to bear this out: “Decisions of this importance must not be made on a hit-or-miss basis or in response to local pressures, but only in accordance with careful study and with full regard to the relative roles of public and private institutions. It is, of course, of prime importance that our private educational institutions be given every encouragement and opportunity to expand and develop in order to meet the increasing obligations of the years ahead.”
- Chancellor Myers reiterates the centrality of the private and parochial institutions in the State and notes that “the State should complement the private offerings, not compete with them, and together all branches of the University should plan for the needs of the future.”
- James Allen’s inaugural address confronts the issue of education within the framework of the “world-shaking impact of the atomic age.” He associates education with the “need of educating for security of mind.” This “security of mind demands that each individual be educated also for the broader task which is common to all -- that of citizen and member of the brotherhood of man.”

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- Ultimately it is Allen's view that "upon the Board of Regents falls the heaviest burden of all, for theirs is the greatest responsibility of all. In their keeping is the welfare of the whole educational system of the State. The Board of Regents serves as the policymaking body for education....the State Education Department serves as the administrative agency for carrying out these policies."