

About 1,000 Attend Meeting

FAMU Students Plan Tour Of State to Oppose Merger

By BRAD SILLIMAN

Democrat Staff Writer

Florida A&M University students will tour the state this weekend to urge a telegram and letter campaign opposing a merger of the school with Florida State University and a proposal which would limit enrollment.

The students formed committees last night at a meeting, attended by nearly 1,000, in Lee Hall called after two state senators suggested merger of the two universities for "money saving" reasons.

Yesterday afternoon Sen. Lee Weissenborn, D-Miami, called for a gradual merger of the two institutions and described FAMU as a "monument to racial separation."

Sen. John Broxson, D-Milton, said he did not think the state had to finance the retention of black culture in a separate institution.

Chancellor Robert Mautz told the subcommittee, "I realize all the implications and confrontations that this idea will bring, but the governor said there are no 'sacred cows' and our goal is to achieve maximum efficiency."

FAMU student leader Spencer Abbott, told the students last night that the issue would be submitted to Gov. Reubin Askew, who he

said had tentatively agreed to speak Monday morning to the FAMU student body.

Student body president, Donna Dawkins said last night that saving money did not justify the elimination of the 84-year-old university, and that a "lot of black people would never have gone to college anywhere" had it not been for FAMU.

"There's a lot more to life than economics; there's humanity too," she said. "What's been done by FAMU over the years has never been done by any other university in Florida!"

In a telephone interview with FAMU President Dr. Ben Perry, who is in Fort Lauderdale for a Florida Association of Colleges and

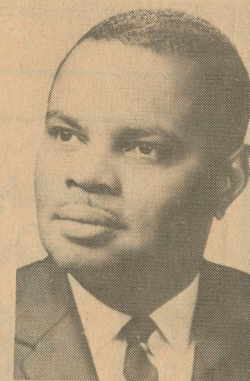
Universities conference, he said, "I wonder if it's really a matter of economics."

Perry said there was no guarantee that money, taken from FAMU after a union with FSU, would go back into the conglomerate of the two. Echoing the student body's views, Perry said FAMU enabled many black students to attend college who would have been denied entrance elsewhere due to standardized tests and cultural differences. "We have a defined purpose," he said. Perry added that the legislature has previously passed two resolutions "guaranteeing FAMU's autonomy."

Commenting on these two resolutions last night, a faculty member at the university said

'I wonder if it's really a matter of economics.'

—Dr. B. L. Perry



disgustedly, "the white man speaks with forked tongue."

Black Miami attorney and FAMU graduate, John Dew told students last night that a

House Education Committee bill which would limit FAMU's enrollment was "another attempt to get rid of" the university.