

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the past few weeks, a series of events have occurred which are of major importance to the future of the Arboretum.

The long-standing dispute between the University of Washington and the City of Seattle regarding the development and management of the Arboretum in Washington Park has apparently been resolved. Both parties have signed a Letter of Clarification of the 1934 agreement under which the University originally developed and has managed the Arboretum on City park property. The Letter of Clarification specially commits both the City and the University to the continued development and improvement of the Arboretum, but some of the practical problems which surround this agreement make it clear that the Foundation must reassess its methods of support of the Arboretum if we are to be of maximum effect in accomplishing our objectives.

As the City takes a more aggressive position in exercising its management right over the property, the ability of the University to obtain funding for the Arboretum and its program for long-range development is obviously restricted. Under these circumstances, it appears likely that major functions (for example, research and experimentation) of the Arboretum program will be developed at other locations and eventually withdrawn from the Washington Park site, leaving the present Arboretum with facilities such as display gardens, a Visitors' Interpretive Center and facilities for public display and explanation of University-sponsored research and for public education on Arboretum-related subjects.

The University has agreed to match City maintenance funds for the Arboretum, and continues to express its commitment to a long-range development program. It would, therefore, appear that the major challenge to all those interested in the Washington Park site is to support a development program which guarantees a first-quality Arboretum at Washington Park so that broad public support will encourage the continuing commitment of tax dollars to that purpose.

Since the Bylaws of the Foundation presently commit this organization to the development of the Arboretum in Washington Park, the Foundation must also reach a decision regarding its future support of the scientific, educational, research, and display activities which will be carried on at other locations, probably in the Union Bay area of the University of Washington campus.

Your Executive Board and the Board of Directors will be giving a great deal of thought to these problems over the next few weeks. I encourage you to express your views in writing to the Foundation so that we will have the benefit of your thoughts in clarifying our future course of action.

Sincerely,



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