Wood AM Viewpoint, delivered on February 2, 1981

Arend D. Lubbers
Grand Valley State University
DRAFT . . . . . . . WOOD "Viewpoint" . . . . . . 60 seconds

Dr. Wood: Over the past ten years Michigan has abandoned its tradition of top priority support for public higher education? The portion of Michigan's revenues going to higher education has dropped by 33 percent. We used to be among the top ten states in per capita appropriations for higher education; now we're on the bottom of the list.

We cannot afford to continue this downgrading of public higher education. Our colleges must receive stable, consistent and adequate levels of funding. Only then can they turn out the educated professionals and skilled technicians -- as well as the research -- essential to revitalize Michigan.

Several of my fellow college presidents have suggested that tax reform planning in Michigan should include a designated fund for higher education. This would not necessarily increase taxes ... It could assure that adequate funding for higher education is in the annual budget.

Ask your legislators to support a study of this concept. Your involvement is essential if support for higher education is to be determined by responsible decisions reflecting the needs and desires of the people.

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