

October 13, 1928

I want to talk to you this morning on the subject of economy. It is our desire to operate this college in the most efficient way possible and to do it on the most economical basis possible. That means that we must have the hearty cooperation of the student body. If we are to hold the charges against you for a year's work in college to \$225.00, (the other \$15.00 you pay is student fee), but putting that on makes \$240.00 which is less than half of the amount that I have to pay in just tuition charges alone for a year's instruction alone for my son at the University of Pennsylvania. I say if we are to keep those charges down you must help us in a multitude of ways.

Take the subject of lights, the college furnishes you with electric bulbs, (some have not all they should have but will get them soon). The life of an electric bulb is 1,000 hours of burning. Now if you go out of your room and leave the lights on three lamps for one hour you have burned three hours of one electric bulb, and you do that for ten days and it is thirty hours and if the whole student body does that you can see at once how you are shortening the life of these lamps and somebody has to pay for it. It not only costs the lamp but it costs coal at the power plant to keep that light burning and it is not doing anyone any good. I say if it can be of service to you, let it burn. You come in this hall at night and turn on the lights and you hold a half hour meeting and you walks out and leave the lights burning and the lights burn until a quarter to 11 when the night watchman comes in and turns them off. You have to pay for that. In reality it comes out of that money you pay and it is getting dangerously near the point of needing all you pay and when it goes beyond that we will be forced to raise the charges.

Then we furnish you with books. I will assume you get a set of new book, you take the books and use them for a quarter, write all through them and tear a page or two out and mark them up and make them almost unusable. The life of a book ought to be three years and if you abuse them so they cannot be used but two years it means we lose $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ which means we will have to raise the fees.

You have a spigot in your room that is leaking, you should report it to the office. Under the lavatory you will find a little knob where you can turn the water off. Do not let it just run and run and say, "Yes, it has been leaking for some time, but I just forgot to report it." We do not have a daily inspection by a plumber. Plumbers are very expensive luxuries. You, who live in towns and have had to employ them know this. Help us in every way you can to make these little savings.

Young folks, the high cost of living in reality is the cost of high living. It is the little waste here and the little waste there that makes up the tremendous account which we have in our office when all is brought together. So much for economy from a standpoint of the college.

There is another kind of economy that I want you to be interested in and that is the economy of your time. The time to do the job is as soon as the job is given to you. The time to get ready for the fall term examinations is now, not next December. It may be too late in December. I find a lot of people who follow that philosophy of "Never doing today what you can put off until tomorrow." Do not wait until tomorrow because tomorrow will have something for you to do then. You say, "Oh, I will not have to recite on that lesson until next Wednesday. That means you ought to make a schedule for yourself to work by. Then when a girl

comes in your room and starts talking just tell that girl to get out, do not be nasty about it but tell her you have some work to do. Work on a schedule for yourself to get ready for the schedule the college has given you. You would be surprised if you would keep tab on yourself and see how many hours of your time you have just literally wasted. Now I am not talking about the time you are outdoors getting exercise. Put that on your schedule as it is just as important to play some as to work some.

Robert H. Wright, President
East Carolina Teachers College