Trustees Make Statement for Kamehameha Students, Grads

The splendid spirit of the student bodies of the Kamehameha Schools, and the loyalty and interest of alumni, alumnae, faculty and others are valued by the trustees of the Bernice P. Bishop Estate. Because of their deep regard for these intangible assets, the trustees desire to issue the following statement to all members of the student bodies, past and present.

Recently the trustees have been the target of another unfair attack. Charges of incompetence and selfish desires to enrich themselves at the expense of the estate and the schools have been read again into the records of the territorial legislature. The charges were similar to those hurled at the board of trustees during the 1943 session of the legislature. Continued attacks of this character, if unanswered, may in time tend to undermine the splendid spirit now existing. Such attacks are dangerous to the schools.

Mrs. Bishop left her properties for the creation and maintenance of the schools and desired to create for you. You are the beneficiaries of her estate, and it is the sworn duty of all trustees to manage those properties in such manner as to derive from them the greatest benefits for the schools and through the schools for you. This responsibility has never been taken lightly or allowed to become secondary to the personal interests of the trustees, as Senator William H. Heen has charged. The past record of the trustees speaks for itself.

Hawaii as a whole and the Bernice P. Bishop Estate as a part of that whole have mutual and inseparable interests. As Hawaii grows and prospers the Estate grows and prospers. And progressive development of the Estate and improvement of the schools must surely react to the benefit of Hawaii. This relationship requires that the two must move together.

Even before the beginning of these attacks against your trustees plans had been studied and adopted for improvements and expansions of the schools and development of the properties of the Estate. Those plans have been followed as closely as conditions have permitted and as rapidly as has been prudent. Some were interrupted by the war and must await the end of the war. Others are progressing even now. These plans constitute a very considerable program, only a fraction of which has thus far been accomplished. Much work and wise judgment will be required for the greater portion that remains.

Management of an estate so large compares with the management and responsibility of the largest business in Hawaii.

With this future program in mind,