

recalled his attitude towards approaching the Legislature a year ago:

"We are not going to the Legislature with our hats in our hands, complaining about the cost of living, or talking endlessly of fiscal parity with the University of Michigan or Wayne State. We think it quite enough to be judged on our own merits."

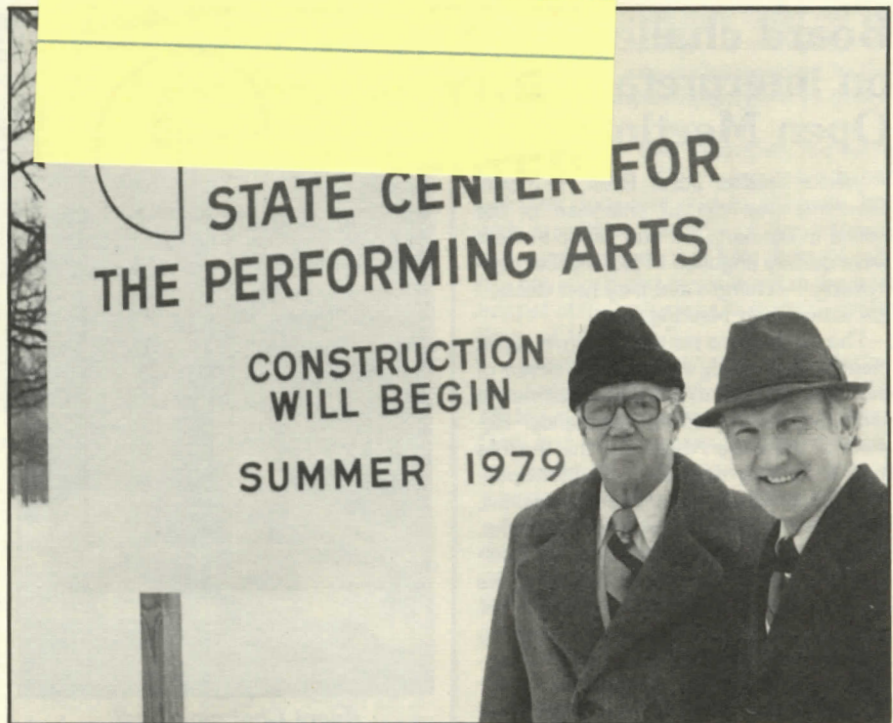
Harden also urged the university to look to other available resources. "A major resource of any university must be its alumni," he declared. "Their accomplishments and achievements speak more to the excellence of an institution than any other single measure. MSU rates very well in this regard. Many major leadership roles in agriculture, education, industry, government, labor and commerce are held by graduates of Michigan State University.

"Since its founding in 1855, MSU has awarded more than 220,000 degrees. About 190,000 — or 86 per cent — of these alumni are alive and active today. This is a potential force that can be tapped more effectively as resources for Michigan State University. In a closely related area, we have observed that there are many friends of MSU waiting to be asked to support this institution. With no direct ties to the university, they don't know how to help us because we have rarely given them a chance. Their involvement is important. We must realize that MSU cannot be an island unto itself. We must let it be known that this university is not philosophically, spiritually, or in any other way, separated from the rest of society."

Harden noted two areas in particular that he said "need our special attention — they are affirmative action and faculty reorganization and academic governance.

"In being critical of delays in the academic governance system, we need to recognize the impact of delays rather than just the hours of faculty and student time used. For example, if an issue takes four years to work its way through the system, and it finally results in a policy change that improves undergraduate education, there are 35,000 students who didn't benefit from the change. If the policy change could have been effected in one year, three-fourths of those students would reap the benefits of the new program."

Regarding the university's affirmative action program, Harden declared, "We fully intend to bring the university into compliance with federal, state and university policy concerning discrimination. I believe that the bottom line of affirmative action is personal human equality. It's not just a question of setting up a system for compliance — all units of the university must accept the spirit of affirmative action if we are to achieve our goals." ■



SIGN OF THE TIMES — Confidence is running high for a successful completion of the capital campaign to raise 13.5 million for construction of the State Center for the Performing Arts on the MSU campus. With construction scheduled to begin this summer, this sign was erected in January at the site of the new facility at the corner of East Shaw Lane and Bogue Street. President Harden and Jack Shingleton, assistant to National Campaign Chairman John Hannah, were on hand for the sign placement . . . as they will be for ground-breaking ceremonies only weeks away. As of March 1, nearly \$9 million had been pledged to the arts center which was originally estimated to cost \$11 million. ■

Presidential search: Is any end in sight?

In February the MSU Board of Trustees asked interim President Edgar Harden to stay on for an indefinite period — a move which many in the university community feel signals a breakdown in the search and selection process for a permanent president.

"I've said all along I was an interim president — it's been no secret that I'm anxious to welcome the new president," says Harden, stressing that the Trustees did not offer him a permanent position. "It's been my hope all along that the board could find a new president within the agreed-upon time." Harden had earlier agreed to stay on until June 30.

In December the 17-member search and selection committee submitted the names of four nominees to the Board: James Norton, visiting chancellor of Case Western University; George Christensen, vice president for academic affairs at Iowa State University; Henry Koffler, vice president for academic affairs at the University

of Minnesota, and Charles Bishop, president of the University of Arkansas. Bishop has since asked to have his name withdrawn from the list.

The Trustees in February nominated a fifth candidate, Ronald Roskens, president of the University of Nebraska. Roskens was rejected by the search committee, however.

While Trustee Michael Smydra has hinted publicly that the Board's failure to act on the four names submitted by the committee constitutes a rejection of the candidates, the Board officially denies that notion.

"To say such a thing is totally untrue as far as I'm concerned," says Board Chairman John Bruff. "The board still considers all four nominees, including Bishop, as excellent candidates. No one has been offered the presidency yet." According to spokesman Bruff, the Board has set June as the "outer limits" by which time they expect to select a permanent replacement for Clifton Wharton, who resigned in November 1977 to become chancellor of the State University of New York. ■