

## Report of the Organ Committee

to the

Board of Control

January 24, 1989

### 1. Directives at the last meeting of the Board of Control

At its regular fall meeting (October, 1988) the Board authorized the Organ Committee to seek an updated bid from the Lynn Dobson Organ Company. The Board also authorized its Executive Committee to sign a contract with the Dobson firm if the following stipulations were met:

- that the chapel was in a condition to receive the organ
- the the updated bid was in line with committee estimates
- that funding possibilities seemed viable to the Executive Committee

### 2. Bid Update from the Dobson Organ Company

Dr. Edward H. Meyer, our consultant, contacted the Dobson Company and asked Lynn Dobson to prepare a new bid for the chapel organ. Mr. Dobson submitted a bid of \$208,000. This was a 42% increase over the March 1987 bid of \$146,000.

### 3. Organ Committee Reaction to the Dobson bid

The committee was, quite naturally, shocked by the severe increase of the Dobson bid. Although Mr. Dobson indicated that other builders would advise similar increases due to cost increases for oak, pipes and insurance, the committee was determined to begin again its search for a builder and advised Mr. Dobson of this fact. The committee authorized Dr. Meyer to suggest the names of several builders who could be contacted. Although the committee took under consideration a suggestion that alternatives to a new organ be studied, the committee decided, with faculty encouragement, to continue to seek reputable builders who would build for more realistic prices.

### 4. Dr. Meyer's studies and suggestions

Dr. Meyer suggested that Seminary seek information on several builders with which he had not worked but which had fine reputations in organ building circles. Prof. Tiefel also had received information concerning several reputable builders. Dr. Meyer was not willing to seek bids from any of these companies until he had a chance to personally visit their shops and inspect their work, theories and financial stability.

The committee authorized Dr. Meyer to visit the Martin Ott Company of St. Louis, MO and the M.L. Bigelow Company of American Fork, UT. Dr. Meyer made the trip over the weekend of January 8.

Dr. Meyer was very favorably impressed with both the Ott and Bigelow companies. Both builders personally met with him; Mr. Ott arranged for and assumed the tab for motel reservations. Both builders are more reasonable in their costs, both are fine builders with good financial

stability, both could complete the organ within two years of the contract agreement and both are eager to bid on our organ.

Dr. Meyer has suggested by phone that he contact both the Ott and the Bigelow firms and ask them to submit bids. He also suggests that the same be done with two original bidders, Schlicker and Casavant, and that the Dobson Company be contacted again. He has advised that all information should be in the hands of the committee by March 1 and suggests that the Organ Committee should be able to make a recommendation within a month after that date.

5. Organ Committee Recommendation

The Organ Committee suggests that the Board of Control resolve the following:

- That the Organ Committee be authorized to seek bids for the chapel from the several builders suggested by Dr. Meyer.
- That the Organ Committee study the bids and builders and be prepared to make a recommendation before the end of the present academic year.
- That the Board's Executive Committee be authorized to sign a contract with the builder the Organ Committee suggests.

6. Dealing with realities

Although it seems likely that there were a number of reasons for the very substantial increase in the bid of the Dobson Company, the Committee and the Board are probably well-advised that Mr. Dobson's observations concerning across-the-board cost increases are not unique to his company. While Dr. Meyer feels very certain, after his recent discussions with Mr. Ott and Mr. Bigelow, that we can secure a bid from a reputable company which is substantially lower than the bid of Mr. Dobson, it is also likely that we will not see a bid as low as the Dobson bid of spring 1987.

For the Organ Committee

James P. Tiefel, chairman