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Willey Urges Alternatives for Law Unit

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By Wilford Kale

WILLIAMSBURG: The College of William and Mary should make temporary plans about its law school space problems because it is doubtful that the next General Assembly session will appropriate the nearly $5.6 million necessary to construct a building next year.

That was the suggestion of State Sen. Edward E. Willey, Richmond, chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, who would make it to Dr. Thomas A. Graves Jr., William and Mary president.

In a letter to Willey, made public by college officials last month, the ABA said that the Marshall-Wythe School of Law building is "the most inadequate physical plant of any ABA-approved law school in the country."

Willey said he does not consider the release of the ABA report to the press to be an attempt to bludgeon the state of Virginia. "But you ask Tom Graves where we're going to get the money. The Medical College of Virginia has tried the same thing. They say their accreditation is threatened because of their hospital facilities."

"SURE I WANT the best medical school and the best law school we can have, but we've got money problems now. You tell Tom Graves that he should make some kind of accommodation of where we can get this money, but not to tell the General Assembly how to spend the money," Willey said.

Willey said, "My suggestion to him is that he better start borrowing (money) from the bond market. I talked to the bond market that reports to the Bond Council of Virginia and they said the market is solid. We can get money from the bond market, not by borrowing from the capital outlay."

"I think he has to make a better look around for a new and temporary plan for the near future," Willey said. Willey indicated that no federal money would be available to construct the law school building.

"There is plenty of money for about $20 million in capital outlay projects. Willey said, and "we're getting pressure from all over the state. The University of Virginia is..."

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To assure state funding for the law school building, the Virginia General Assembly has failed to act on a bill that would provide state capital outlay funding, Gov. Linwood H. (Jerry) Holtan said last week.

VIRGINIA. The governor strongly urged the General Assembly to provide both state and state university funding for the law school building, Holtan said.

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