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Threat to Accrediation Prompted W&M Facility

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Of Politicians and Teachers

Spong on Politicians, Teachers

By James Lattner

DEC. 3, 1974

By Wilford Kale

WILLIAMSBURG—Three weeks ago nearly 550 students at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law arrived in town, fully believing they would be earning their degrees on Sunday morning to settle fiscal controversy that threatened to deprive the school of its accreditation, which is essential for the school to have a viable future.

"It's deplorable," one student said. "It's a sad situation."

The school was granted accreditation by the American Bar Association in 1951, but in recent years the accreditation has been in jeopardy. In 1974, the school was given a year to improve its facilities and other areas of its operation, but when the deadline passed, the school was placed on probation.

The accreditation threat has been a constant source of anxiety for the school and its students. In recent weeks, the school has been trying to improve its facilities and other areas of its operation, but the accreditation threat has not been lifted.

In a statement released yesterday, the school said it was "deeply disappointed" by the decision of the American Bar Association to revoke its accreditation.

The statement said the school had made "significant progress" in recent weeks, but that the accreditation threat was still "serious and ongoing."}

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Day of Miracles at Law—But What for Democrats?

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found pins until the 1976 meeting of the General Assembly when the college would take the law school off the University's priority list.

In July, 1975, the accreditation picture came into sharper focus when the Virginia State Board of Legal Examiners became the most serious threat to accreditation. In August, the board informed the college that it would make an on-site inspection in September and would consider the action of the Virginia State Bar in revoking the college's right to confer the J.D. degree.

The college was faced with a decision: either to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to renovate the existing building and add new facilities, or to build a new law school. The decision was made to build a new law school.

The building was completed in 1978, and the law school was accredited by the American Bar Association in 1979.