Law School Collusion Is Denied by Spong

Charles Cox
Law School Collusion Is Denied by Spong

By Charles Cox

Education Writer

WILLIAMSBURG - Dean William B. Spong Jr. of the law school at the College of William and Mary denied allegations of colluding between the American Bar Association and the law school here in an effort to persuade the Supreme Court of Virginia to grant the college a $5 million law school building.

Spong was addressing the General Assembly, which recommended that Richard Bland College develop a two-year program for gifted students.

"When the 1976 General Assembly clipped all but a token appropriation from the state budget, the ABA insisted that the law school's accreditation was endangered until the new facility was completed," Spong said. "Dean Richard P. Black, Jr., of the college, had somehow convinced the ABA to make the $5 million available to the college. He was addressing the State Council of Higher Education, which recommended that Richard Bland College develop a two-year program for gifted students.

"When the 1976 General Assembly clipped all but a token appropriation from the state budget, the ABA insisted that the law school's accreditation was endangered until the new facility was completed," Spong said. "Dean Richard P. Black, Jr., of the college, had somehow convinced the ABA to make the $5 million available to the college. He was addressing the State Council of Higher Education, which recommended that Richard Bland College develop a two-year program for gifted students.

"After the U.S. Supreme Court a few years ago refused to allow Bland College to become a four-year college on grounds that it would hinder desegregation of the tax-supported college system, a study was chartered to make recommendations on the future of the two-year affiliate of the University of Virginia. The study committee proposed that Bland ought to develop a two-year residential program for gifted and talented students, 'strengthen its ties' to William and Mary and 'strengthen its relationships' with mostly black Virginia State College a few miles away. The committee also suggested that Bland might have a future developing a center for continuing education. It was indeed a scholar."