

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

February 1, 1980

JOHN Y. BROWN, JR.
GOVERNOR

Mr. Harry N. Snyder
Executive Director
Council on Higher Education
West Frankfort Office Complex
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Mr. Snyder:

In recent weeks there has been considerable discussion regarding the reduction of operating costs in state agencies. I announced several plans in the State of the Commonwealth address to the Legislature on January 8, 1980. Among them was a call for a reduction of expenditures through careful control of personnel costs.

More specifically, my belief in the need to control the number of state employees in the Executive Branch has resulted in the setting of a five percent reduction goal for all agencies. Using employment figures from December 1, 1979 as a base, the five percent or more reduction is to be achieved by June 30, 1980.

In advocating these reductions, I cited, and will continue to reiterate, the following themes: A business-like approach to government operations, a reevaluation of spending patterns and programs, a reestablishment of priorities, and a lean work force which aims at high efficiency and high productivity. I believe we can accomplish the reduction and still manage the Commonwealth in a responsible, progressive manner aimed at the well-being of all Kentuckians.

The key to the success of this program is careful use of state revenues through sound fiscal management. Through measures such as attrition, reductions can occur with no loss in the quality of service. The funds saved by these means can come from all state agencies whose operations depend upon the general fund.

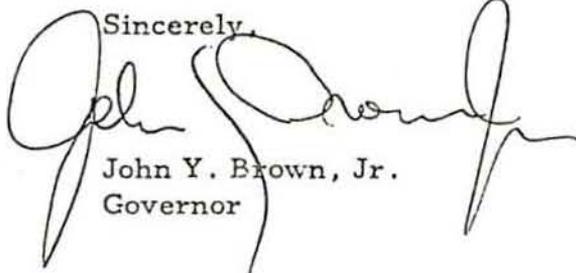
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Given their common relationship to the general fund, I have asked all agencies in the Executive Branch to share their ideas about how to achieve further fiscal responsibility. Similarly, I believe that this restraint might be considered beyond the Executive Branch - in other state agencies and institutions which draw on the general fund.

In promoting the sharing of these initiatives, I do so in good faith and with deep respect for the separation of powers and distinct budgetary areas. I do not wish to diminish vital services in our institutions of higher learning. Let me emphasize clearly that my highest education priority is to increase the salary levels of our most valuable resource, our university faculty and staff. However, I desire the broadest possible participation in a program of reduction by agencies who share a common source of funds. In addition to personnel, we need to look at all possible budget-cutting moves. In this regard, I ask you to scrutinize all of the state universities' budgets to see that they reflect this spirit of reduction.

As I stated in the Legislature, this program of reduction is in the interest of better government and, therefore, in the public interest. I believe there should be no barriers to the sharing of measures appropriate to those goals.

Sincerely,



John Y. Brown, Jr.
Governor