Resignation of CCC president greeted by varied reactions here

Local reaction to the sudden resignation last week of Dr. B. A. Barringer, president of Catonsville Community College and the county's three-college system, has ranged from outright shock to distress and anger to both passive and welcome acceptance.

A random sampling of CCC administrators, staff, students and faculty members taken shortly after his 3 p.m. announcement on Wednesday, April 11, brought mostly solemn, even tearful responses.

Immediately after Dr. Barringer's brief statement at a hastily-called meeting of CCC employees, one long-time dean called the action "unfortunate." Most persons interviewed expressed sadness, shock or distress.

But a minority of faculty members welcomed the resignation stating "it is time for a change." Most holding this opinion were relative newcomers to the CCC staff while persons who have worked at the local campus for five or more years told The Times they were disappointed at the separation.

Many students, faculty members and staffers praised Dr. Barringer's leadership and disputed his announced reasoning for the departure.

In his local remarks, he said he was stepping down because he believed that college leadership should change from time to time. "After a decade of service, that time has come for me," he told his "friends and colleagues" last Wednesday. Later that evening, he submitted his formal resignation to the Board of Trustees of the Baltimore County Community Colleges.

The board's and Dr. Barringer's

RESIGNATION

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Hess, chairman of the trustees, and Morris M. Pallozzi, a trustee from Catonsville, they, too, were frustrated by the legislature's failure to sanction the system concept. "The accompanying story says most everyone questioned by the Pimry last week felt that the legislature was wrong in defeating the system bill. Many saw the defeat as the state representatives meddled into a job that has been delegated to the college trustees. "The board favored the idea...so did the county executive...who do they think they are in effect run the community colleges," on high-ranking CCC administrator said.

would report directly to the trustees were unsuccessful. The bill narrowly passed the county's Senate delegation and was defeated by House representatives, 13-9.

Dr. Barringer told The Times that it was the repeated defeat of the state legislation that influenced his decision to resign.

His resignation last week was not unexpected.

That feeling was echoed more categorily by John M. Martin, a member of the college's Citizens Advisory Committee for almost two decades. "I think it's disgraceful that some politicians can cost the college, the county and the community a man of that caliber," Mr. Martin, the former newspaper publisher said. Martin was a member of the committee that recommended Dr. Barringer for the CCC presidency in 1968. Martin said his other comments about the legislators' action were "unprintable."

All three persons who resigned last week agreed that the legislature usurped the trustees' authority by failing to approve the bill.

Even though that bill was first defeated last year, the Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Barringer to the dual position of CCC President and System President after the County Solicitor ruled that the board's action did not violate statutes.

But when the County Council and the County Auditor questioned the legality of move, County Executive Donald Hutchinson decided to resubmit the question to the legislature.

Dr. Barringer, Hess and Pallozzi strongly endorse the system concept, not only for the greater coordination they believe it would bring but also because of fiscal savings that would come to county taxpayers. "Simply put," Dr. Barringer said, "it has great potential for savings" through pooling of computer and clerical facilities, capital needs and personnel practices.

The board also holds that the system concept would continue the local governance and identity of the three colleges.

Dr. Barringer said "It has been hard doing two jobs" as president of both CCC and the system. He said he was "obviously sad. You can't disrupt associations and friends of 11 years...my love for this college, county and community without sadness."

Dr. Barringer told the board he would remain on the job until the fall when a successor should be selected.