
FIVE UNIVERSITIES HIT FORD FOUNDATION JACKPOTS

In return for promises to match the grants from new sources by two to one, Notre Dame has received \$6 million from the Ford Foundation, Johns Hopkins the same, Denver \$5 million, and Vanderbilt \$4 million. Stanford gets \$25 million and must match it with three times that amount. It appears that the behavioral sciences will benefit from some of the funds received at Notre Dame; the natural sciences will get the lion's share elsewhere.

It is a pity that the Ford Foundation cannot distribute its major sums in ways that do not make it seem a little superfluous. Except for considerations we are too discreet to suggest, why should a foundation be only an intermediary between a university and a donor? We once suggested how foundations might escape this fate by giving to creative individuals (see "How to Simplify a Foundation's Work," *PROD*, May 1960, p. 36), and hope no one thought we meant university presidents. The truth is, of course, that large foundations have paths and momentums that are little changed by pleas or reasoning. Although created to spend money thoughtfully for special purposes, foundations on the whole act as conventionally and routinely as the average college, government office, and business firm, which have much better reason for treating thought as a precious interlude in a life of action.