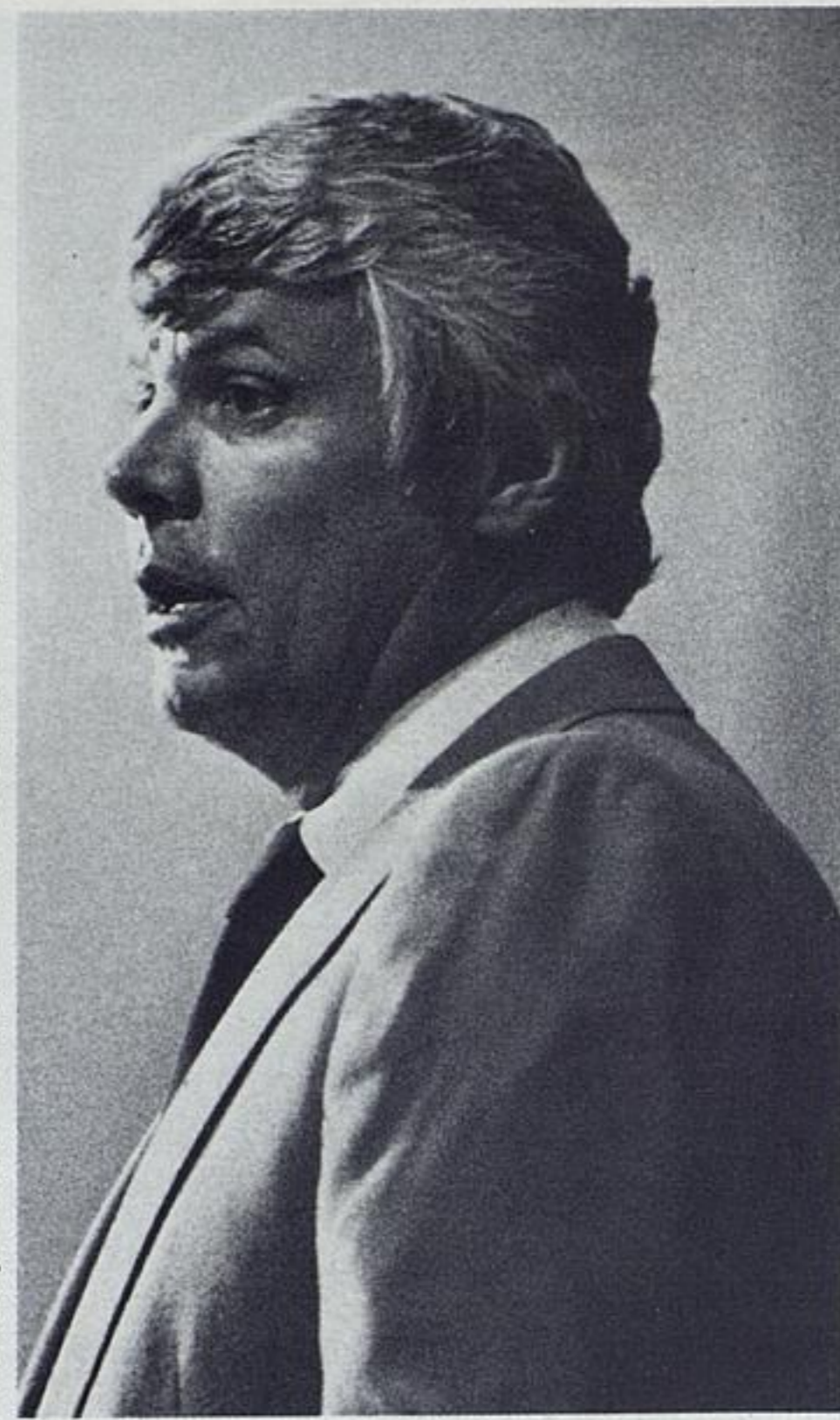




Louie B. Nunn

Gubernatorial Candidates 1979

The Kentucky Alumnus magazine recently asked gubernatorial candidates democrat John Y. Brown Jr. and republican Louie B. Nunn to respond to nine questions concerning higher education and the University of Kentucky. Here are the questions and the candidates responses.



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John Y. Brown Jr.

What is the role of higher education in relation to the future of Kentucky?

Nunn: Dr. Herman Donovan used to say: "You can't have a great state without a great state university." I would paraphrase that to say, "without a great public university system." Kentucky has made great strides in recent years in part because of the advances made by her universities and community colleges. I am proud to have been a part of that progress, to have been Governor when two of those universities (the University of Louisville and Northern Kentucky University) were brought into the state system. I am also proud that during my former term as governor the University of Kentucky Community College System was finished with completion of construction at Ashland, Jefferson and Henderson, and with the advent of a completely new community college, the last one created, at Madisonville.

It has been said that the role of higher education in America is diminishing. I disagree. In a world caught up in rapidly escalating technological needs, I continue to see great demand for trained intelligence and demonstrated competence, which is the stock-in-trade of a university system.

Our system of higher education must, however, be constantly changing to be relevant to the needs of our people. I see, in my travels, demands for increasing career education and continuous education and some rejection of the general studies. This must be responded to.

In summary, the role of higher education in Kentucky for the future remains, as it has been in the past, an important element in our progress. As governor, I will continue to support it.

Brown: Education is now and should always be the most important concern in Kentucky for without a strong educational system, there will be no future for our state. Higher education is one of the brightest facets in Kentucky's potential and during my administration as governor, I will be committed to seeing that our Council on Higher Education meet the needs of the students in our society. The old answers of the past will not suffice as answers to the questions of the future. Kentucky can be so much more than it presently is, and it will, to a large degree, be the products of our higher education system that help us reach our rightful place.

What means or ways do you propose to assure that the University of Kentucky can procure and retain professors and staff, other than by increasing salaries?

Nunn: The recruitment of faculty obviously is more the role of the university administration and the deans than of a state administration or a governor. As governor, I will see that these people are given adequate resources and the latitude to develop programs which will permit recruitment of professors and staff.

Clearly, the University of Kentucky stands to benefit from the nation's increased reliance on coal as an energy source and with the nation's vast programs for the development of synthetic fuels. With the cooperation of the state government, this vast program can inject vitality into the entire university, not just into the physical sciences and the College of Engineering. I have worked and cooperated with