

the school. We know now of course that the bank officials and the administration knew there was a debt which had to be retired but we, who had the most to lose, our school, did not know. We were all stunned when we read in the morning paper about the sale. At first Dr. Provine led us to believe that the school would go on as usual, but from that minute on we felt that Ward-Belmont was gone as far as we were concerned because we learned real soon that it was not the plan of the Tennessee Baptist Convention to continue in the same manner.

I recall we all talked of nothing else for a week and then we suddenly woke up to the fact that maybe, just maybe, we could do something about it. We called a meeting of the alums in this area and decided we would try to raise enough money to offer the Baptists what they were paying for the property (\$425,000) and some more to compensate them for any added trouble and expense. We were confident that the alumnae group would come through when the word of what had happened was spread around the country. Pledge cards were sent out and we sent Miss Morrison to Texas because we had a large number of alumnae there with large sums of money! Many Nashville merchants were contacted and pledged generously. I'm sure you remember Rich-Schwartz. That store for one got a lot of business from you girls.

After we were confident that we could raise the money, we arranged a meeting with a group of Baptists who were in control. Our plea was that the students, faculty and alums had been "sold down the river" so to speak by the administration and the bank. We hoped, but only briefly, that this religious group would look