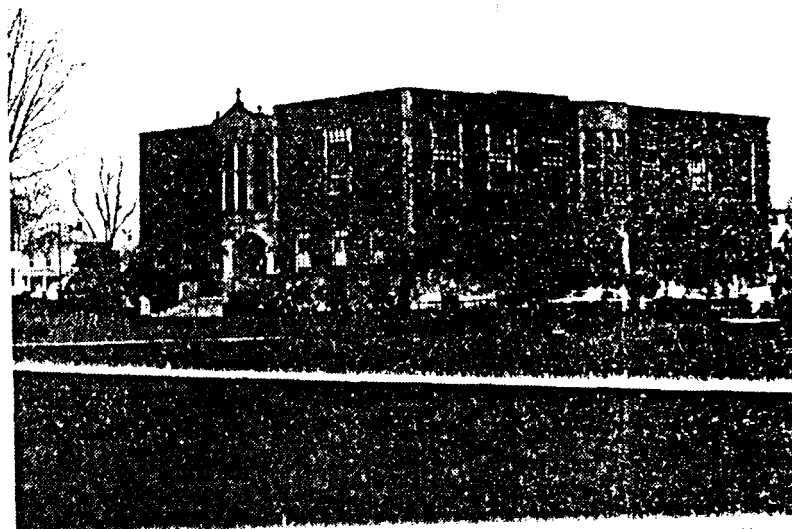


stacks in the remaining room on the second floor of the library, which disfigured one of the most attractive places on campus. It brought about the resignation, in anger, of most of the divisional chairmen of the College. This was followed by the renovation of Davis Hall, which was necessary, and the redoing for the third time of Collins' own apartment in Davis, which was not necessary. The culmination was Monsignor Collins' single-handed attempt at renovation of his office in the Administration Building, which brought about the sickness that eventually would result in his resignation.

Construction of the new building started, and great mounds of dirt rose between the chapel and Ambrose Hall. Collins then had a model room, complete even with beds constructed in the board room of the Administration Building. Prospective donors could then come by and admire the comfort and attractive surroundings that St. Ambrose boarding students would soon have.

Davenport seminarians had to go to summer school. Bishop Hayes wanted them to have more Latin and education courses. Summer school was rather dull and we tried to find the best means possible to make it enjoyable. I remember one night, during a torrential rain storm, almost all of us went out to the mounds of dirt that were the result of the excavation for East Hall and we engaged in a most unbelievable mud fight for over an hour. It was a strange and somewhat childish thing to do, but it was fun. There was a problem. Pictures were taken of the event. Color slides still exist - and Father Sparks from Iowa City and I would give our eye teeth to know where - showing both of us covered with mud from head to toe, slinging quantities of the same at one another.

Another evening in summer school I was talking to Tom Tucker, of the class of '59 who was taking Latin in preparation for going to Rome in the fall, even though he had already graduated. We were lamenting that neither of us would ever have an opportunity to live in the new residence hall. Little did I know then that I would live there for six years. We decided that the closest we could get would be the model room set up in the Administration Building so that prospective donors could see what the future building looked like. So about 11 p.m., the two of us took sheets and pillows and went over to the Administration Building and each prepared one of the beds for himself. We spent the night there in great comfort and with much more quiet than the actual East Hall was ever to have. When we came back to the seminary



The Learning Resource Center, formerly the Administration Building.

shortly after dawn, the guard eyed us very suspiciously, but he probably thought that seminarians were liable to do strange things anyway, and carrying pillows and blankets about the campus from the Administration Building, of all places, would not do anybody any harm.

In those days the Dominican nuns from Springfield would come in full force to summer school. There used to be dozens and dozens of the black and white habits filling both classrooms and Davis Hall. It was still the period in the American Church's history when sisters would enter the convent before college, would teach all year, and then gradually by the accumulation of summer school credits, manage to acquire their bachelor's degree. Some, with holy persistence, would manage to earn it only after about 20 years. The sisters in the summer session were polite and kind, but somewhat distant. I still remember them out playing on the tennis court - in full habit.

The autumn of 1959 would see the College mount its last football team for an 18-year period. It had been engaged in inter-collegiate football for 50 years, generally with very impressive records. It was early March, 1960, before Monsignor Collins' official announcement would come. Collins, in a note of explanation to the student body published in the *Ambrosian News*, blamed