Excerpts about the library from an editorial by Sumner Gerard in the Daily Missoulian

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Because of the importance of library resources to higher education in Montana, the Daily Missoulian has given us permission to circulate excerpts from an editorial that will appear Sept. 22. The editorial was written by Sumner Gerard of Ennis, president of the Friends of the Library, a group dedicated to improving library facilities at MSU. Gerard is a former Madison county representative in the Legislature who, in his third consecutive term, served in 1959 as his party’s floor leader.

Gerard notes that as a consequence of the blurring of distinctions between privately and publicly financed colleges since World War II, private institutions now derive substantial funds from government and state-supported schools get more of their operating expenses from fees, gifts, bequests and endowments. He says that the demands on the legislature make it impossible for it to provide funds for more than the minimal needs of state services and institutions, commenting, "Universities are more important than jails, but the legislature must provide both."

EXCERPTS FROM AN EDITORIAL BY SUMNER GERARD IN THE DAILY MISSOULIAN, SEPTEMBER 22
PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE BEFORE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

"If private individuals and organizations are sufficiently concerned about the quality of a state university, there are ways in which they can help. ... Under the farsighted and wise leadership of Dr. Harry Newburn, the staff at Montana State University ... has been forging a University with standards of excellence of which Montana can be justly proud.

"And of all the resources without which excellence cannot be attained, none is more important than an adequate and growing library. Books and research material are the lifeblood of learning. The Friends of the Library is a private organization, working closely with the University and its Endowment Foundation, whose aim is to better the library by obtaining funds for important and necessary acquisitions as well as to encourage the contribution of books and papers and other documents valuable to students and researchers. Membership in the Friends is open to all. The support of individuals, companies, industry groups and other organizations is being earnestly solicited.

"Montana may not be a rich state so far as the total disposable income of its citizens is concerned, but a first-rate University library is well within our means. No one thing will do more for us in the long run. Become a Friend!"

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