Independence Day – Separation from William & Mary

Peele: <http://dc.lib.odu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/oralhistory/id/302/rec/54>

*This came about through hard work and politics. The effect was very pronounced insofar as William and Mary was concerned. It went a long ways toward helping us to secure our independent status. It was … deeply entangled in politics in that the University of Virginia saw that the College of William and Mary was building a large system within the State of Virginia. They did not want that. The University of Virginia was attempting to build its own system to where it would be the outstanding institution within the state. Therefore the legislators from the University of Virginia were told to break up the William and Mary system if possible. In breaking it up, it meant that they had to help us secure our independent status. The University of Virginia feared this build-up and therefore through using or by using their alumni in the state legislature, they helped us to secure our independent accreditation.* (pg.6)