

Washington alumni honor Carl Albert

One of the University's most distinguished graduates, Rep. Carl Albert, majority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, was honored in July by his fellow Oklahomans at a black-tie dinner at Washington's Sheraton Park Hotel. More than 1,000 persons attended the affair, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Society, of which the OU Alumni Club of Washington is a part. The guest list was impressive, including four cabinet members, Speaker of the House John McCormack, 50 congressmen, a number of senators—and, oh yes, the President of the United States and his wife dropped by to pay their respects to the man who has risen higher in the federal government than any Oklahoman.

The evening began with a reception given by the OU Alumni of Washington, headed this year by Bradley G. McDonald, '56ba, a Washington attorney. The dinner was emceed by NBC's Frank McGee, who attended OU while he was with WKY-TV in Oklahoma City. At the head table were Secretary of State Rusk and Mrs. Rusk; Attorney General Katzenbach; Postmaster General O'Brien and Mrs. O'Brien; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Weaver and Mrs. Weaver; House Majority Whip Hale Boggs; Minority Whip Leslie Arends;

Oklahoma Methodist Bishop W. Angie Smith, who gave the invocation; Maj. Gen. E. L. Mike Massad, Ardmore, commander of the 95th Reserve Division and a member of the Alumni Executive Board, who led the salute to the flag, and Oklahoma's U.S. senators, Mike Monroney and Fred Harris.

With about 50 other congressmen was the entire Oklahoma delegation in the House—Ed Edmondson, '40ba; Jed Johnson, '61ba; Page Belcher, '17; Tom Steed, and John Jarman. Among those attending was another

On Sept. 6 Rep. Albert suffered a coronary attack. Today he is recovering satisfactorily in Washington.

prominent Oklahoman, Mrs. Perle Mesta, who sometimes attends parties.

The Albert family—Rep. Albert, his wife Mary, his daughter Mary Frances, and son David—listened as the "Little Giant" was praised by his friends in government.

One of the features of the program was a showing of "lantern slides" of events in Mr. Albert's life, narrated by Mr. McGee. The scenes included a 1908 portrait of Ernie and Leona Albert's baby boy, Carl, and a 1966 photograph of the majority leader with President Johnson. Also shown was a picture of young Albert as a student at OU; a shot of the newly named

Rhodes Scholar just before he sailed for Oxford (another Rhodes Scholar that year was Dean Rusk, whom Carl Albert met aboard ship, forming a friendship which has lasted through the years); a picture of Albert in the Army during World War II; another with his bride, Mary, just after the war, and the freshman representative two seats away from another frosh named John F. Kennedy in that congressional class of 1947. Pictures included a proud father with his daughter Mary Frances, a 1966 Oklahoma Cherry Blossom Princess at the annual festival in Washington, and with son David, an avid baseball fan, at the opening game of the season. One of the most popular shots was the class picture of the Bug Tussle (later named Flowery Mound) student body, with the present majority leader and future Speaker of the House in the front row.

The President entered unexpectedly after making a special 10 p.m. television appearance to announce the "settlement" of the airline strike, which later was rejected by the union members. Mr. Johnson praised Mr. Albert as a man of great intellect and common sense. "Anybody," said the President, "who comes from a place called Bug Tussle, Oklahoma, is bound to have practical sense."

Notable non-alumni paying tribute to Rep. Albert were President Johnson and Secretary of State Rusk, shown greeting Rep. Albert's son David, 11. At right top are fellow alumni Sen. Fred Harris (left) and Maj. Gen. E. L. Mike Massad and Mrs. Massad of Ardmore. Below, Rep. Ed Edmondson, '40ba, and Mrs. Edmondson visit with speaker of the House John McCormack, whom Rep. Albert will probably succeed.

