

**T**he October appearance of Paul Boutelle, candidate for vice president of the United States on the Socialist Workers Party ticket, on the OU campus caused a furor of controversy and again raised the issue of academic freedom. The Oklahoma Daily published the following comments, some by persons involved with the Boutelle visit, some made much earlier. The Daily labeled these quotations "Points to Ponder." We present them with two additions, the resolution passed unanimously by the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors in a special meeting on Oct. 31 and an earlier statement by Dr. Cross on academic freedom. For a report and commentary on the Boutelle incident, see the article in Campus Notes.

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it. —*Voltaire*

Error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it. —*Thomas Jefferson*

During my years as president of the University, I have stood for free speech and responsible action by our students, faculty, and administrative officials . . . I publicly question the judgment of those responsible for Mr. Boutelle's appearance . . . I will not create a larger crowd by forbidding him to speak since he was invited by a student organization. —*OU President George L. Cross*

There are, from where I sit, several publics to consider. Thinking of our students is important, but we must also consider the thinking of parents, the general public which supports us as a state institution, and our legislative friends. In view of all these, it did not seem to be wise that we go through with this invitation.

—*OSU President Robert Kamm in explaining why he ordered withdrawn an invitation to Dr. Thomas J. J. Altizer to speak at Oklahoma State University*

Though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the earth, so Truth be in the field, we do ingloriously, by licensing and prohibiting, to misdoubt her strength. Let her and Falsehood grapple: whoever knew Truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter? —*John Milton*

They're getting too liberal down there (at OU). —*State Representative John Miskelly*

There are some of us (legislators) who cannot go along with raising salaries for persons who ought to be building but appear to be destroying. —*State Representative Texanna Hachett*

The degree of intellect shown by certain legislators in criticizing the appearance of unpopular speakers on our campus indicates the need for more and better financing for higher education, so that more capable legislators can be produced. —*Student Senate President Ken Morris*

If a doctrine is so great, the advocates of that doctrine should not be afraid to let people hear opposing doctrines. —*Paul Boutelle*

The OU chapter of the AAUP wishes to go on record as approving the right of both students and faculty to invite such controversial figures as Paul Boutelle; it considers such an appearance as a proper function of the university. There must be no sanctions brought against individuals or organizations who sponsor such appearances. The AAUP asserts the rights of college and university students to listen to anyone they wish to hear and affirms its own belief that it is educationally desirable that students be confronted with diverse opinions of all kinds. —*AAUP Resolution*

In a real university you simply cannot afford to deny the exploration of any idea . . . We take the position that we should explore everything and discard after a thorough discussion that which is not useful or not good, trusting the good judgment of the people to make a determination. —*Dr. George L. Cross*