

The Union investigation

The Oklahoma Memorial Union, built by graduates and friends of the university, is to be investigated by a committee of the state senate, as the result of a resolution introduced by Senator Hardin Ballard, '27 law, of Purcell.

The investigation was to begin early in February, the committee consisting of Senators John A. McDonald of Durant, chairman; Ballard, vice-chairman; Charles B. Memminger, '14 arts-sc., of Atoka; Ross Rizley of Guymon and Allen G. Nichols of Wewoka.

Frank S. Cleckler, '21 bus., manager of the Union, declared that he welcomed the investigation, that every feature of the Union project was open for inspection, now as at any time; and he issued a detailed explanation of the Union management, pointing out erroneous conceptions contained in the resolution authorizing the investigation.

The text of Mr Ballard's resolution follows:

A resolution authorizing the appointment of a committee from the Senate of Oklahoma to investigate the Student Union Building Corporation, a private corporation, doing business on or near the campus of the University of Oklahoma, and authorizing said committee to carry on said investigation to determine the relation of said corporation to the University of Oklahoma, the legality or illegality of its existence, manner of conducting business, collecting money from students and the public, competing with local merchants, its exemption from taxation, distribution or disposition of the proceeds, and any other facts which said committee may deem necessary in the interest of the public; and directing said committee to report its findings to the senate, and make recommendations which it may deem advisable as to further action of the senate in the matter.

Whereas, there now exists a certain corporation, known as the "Student Union Building Corporation" which purports to be the owner of a certain building located on property belonging to the State of Oklahoma near the engineering building upon what is known as part of the campus of the University of Oklahoma, at or near Norman, Oklahoma; and

Whereas, information has come to the senate through one of its members that said corporation purports or appears to be engaged in various trades, occupations, or enterprises, or business, for profit, including among other things a pool room, bowling alley, book store, cafeteria, ball room, and other enterprises, and is conducting same on said premises; and

Whereas, the board of regents of the University of Oklahoma is supplying heat, light, power and water for said building; and

Whereas, information has come to the senate, through one of its members, that students entering the university are, or have been charged \$2.50 per semester as prerequisite to enrollment in said university, which is, in part, at least, as the senate is informed, appropriated to the indebtedness on

said building, or the management and operation of same, the exact manner and method of handling said funds being unknown to the informer; and

Whereas, there appears to be probably cause to believe that said building is being maintained for the use and benefit of said corporation, or said corporation is engaged in private enterprises in excess of its lawful powers, or that the operation and maintenance of said building is not being carried on as contemplated by the session laws of 1923, page 213, Section 1, being an act of the legislature of Oklahoma approved April 9, 1923, effecting June 29, 1923, or that said act of the legislature purporting to authorize the board of regents of the University of Oklahoma to lease to the board of governors of the Oklahoma Student Union a portion of the campus consisting of a parcel of land not to exceed two acres is illegal and void.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the senate of the state of Oklahoma:

1. That a committee consisting of three members of the senate be appointed by the president of the senate, or the president *pro tempore* of the senate.

2. And said committee is hereby authorized and empowered to go to the city of Norman and to the campus of the University of Oklahoma, and to any other place where said corporation may be found to be doing business, or to have transacted business; and to do whatever it may deem necessary to investigate and determine the nature, character, status, and affairs of said corporation, to wit, the "Student Union Building Corporation."

3. And said committee is further authorized, empowered and directed to determine the relation, transaction and dealings of said corporation with the Oklahoma Student Union, and the board of governors of the Oklahoma Student Union, and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma; the nature and character of all enterprises, trades, occupations, and businesses carried on, operated and conducted in the said student Union building, or upon the premises occupied upon the campus grounds of the University of Oklahoma by any organization, corporation, association or person other than the schools solely at the expense of the state as institutions of the state, but including any student organization, or purported student organization which in any manner, directly or indirectly, attempts to exercise any control or authority over the affairs of said corporation, the said building or buildings, or the enterprises carried on or conducted therein.

4. And said committee is hereby authorized and empowered to issue subpoenas for such witnesses as it may deem necessary to examine, and cause the same to be served in any part of the state of Oklahoma, and to compel the attendance of such witnesses as provided by law for the attendance of witnesses before the courts of this state, and to punish for contempt for failure to answer questions as provided by law for contempt proceedings before the courts of this state.

5. And said committee is hereby authorized and empowered to inquire into and determine the legality or illegality of the contracts and instruments and acts of the legislature, if any it finds, which purports to authorize any corporation, association, partnership, stock company, or person to build, own, operate, or maintain a business house, club room or private or student enterprise upon land belonging to the state of Oklahoma and situated on the campus of the University of the state of Oklahoma.

6. The expenses and *per diem* of said committee shall be paid from the legislative fund.

7. The committee herein provided for shall from time to time report the result of its efforts to the senate with its recommendations, if any it has, for further action by the senate.

The Oklahoma Memorial Union is a building erected in 1928 from funds contributed by alumni, faculty, students and friends of the university. The building is a memorial to the graduates and former students of the university who gave their lives in the world war. It is used by students and faculty, both for recreation and utility, since alumni headquarters are in the building and many student offices.

"There is no 'Student Union Building Corporation,'" Mr Cleckler states. "The building, which is dedicated to the soldiers who lost their lives in the world war, was built by the Stadium Union Memorial Fund, a non-stock corporation organized to promote educational, literary, scientific and religious development of the students of the University of Oklahoma and was authorized to build a stadium and a Union building at the university.

"The Union is controlled by a board of governors which are the same as the Trustees of the Stadium Union Memorial Fund. This corporation is expressly prohibited from issuing certificates of stock and declaring dividends and it is provided that no part of its earnings, income and funds shall be used to the benefit of any member or individual. It is not a private corporation and not one cent of its earnings or income has gone, or ever can go, to any individual. Its board of trustees are alumni selected by the organized alumni and the president of the university. None of these board members receive anything for their services. They not only have given their time to the promotion and management of these projects for the past six years but none of them have received expenses for attending board meetings.

Funds with which to finance these projects come from the following sources:

1. Voluntary contributions from alumni, students, faculty, and friends of the university. More than \$200,000.00 has been contributed.

2. Income from operation of the Union building.

3. Gate receipts from athletic contests.

4. Union fee of \$2.50 each semester paid by students.

The University contributes as its share to these projects heat, water, and light—authorized by act of the legislature, Senate Bill 388 approved April 9, 1923.

The Stadium-Union Memorial Fund has built two wings of the university stadium containing 34,000 seats at a cost of \$284,511.68; the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building at a cost of \$236,142.42; and purchased equipment for the Union building totaling \$51,119.65.

To finance these projects the fund in addition to the collection of \$205,639.65 (as of December 31, 1930), a bond issue of \$400,000.00 was floated giving as security the income of the sources above mentioned. These bonds and the interest

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St. Pat's day plans

Every year, along about the middle of March, when most young men's fancies lightly turn to thoughts of baseball, the engineers at O. U. are hard at work in preparation for their annual openhouse.

The approach of Saint Patrick's day on March 17 is the signal for large celebrations in engineering colleges throughout the country. At the University of Iowa, Iowa City, an entire week is devoted to an appropriate celebration of the occasion. However, at this school, the affair is known as Mecca week, due to the strenuous objections of the Irish element in the city of naming it a Saint Patrick's celebration.

At O. U. the celebration has been in vogue for many years and is an occasion for the reunion of old grads, a large openhouse display, and at times an expression of the esteem with which the law and engine schools regard each other.

In order to promote the success of a real celebration a tidy sum of money is needed, and in past years, the treasurer of the Engineer's club has handled funds totalling in excess of \$1,000 for a single year. A portion of these expenses are defrayed by holding an Engineer's show which this year will be held at the Sooner theater on Wednesday, March 11. In addition to the regular feature picture the engineers will furnish stage entertainment and will receive a percentage of the gate receipts. In previous years, various methods have been used to obtain the necessary funds and at one time a style show was held featuring the latest in womens wearing apparel as displayed by interesting co-eds.

Heretofore, the official publication was usually termed the Saint Pat's Daily and was an edition of the *Oklahoma Daily*, the campus newspaper. This year, however, the April issue of *The Sooner Magazine* will be dedicated to the Engineers and will contain all the information usually published in the Saint Pat's Daily and several articles of special interest being prepared by the editorial staff.

The program of the open house festivities, as outlined by the Saint Pat's board, is as follows:

Wednesday, March 11:

Saint Pat's Show—evening performance at the Sooner theater.

Friday, March 13:

10:30 a.m. Arrival of Saint Pat and Parade around the oval.

10:45 a. m. Coronation of queen on the steps of the Engineering building
1-5 p. m. Seventeenth annual openhouse. The two engineering build-

ings, the Petroleum laboratory building and the Geology building.

8-11:30 p. m. Engineer's dance—Oklahoma Union ballroom.

12-12:30 a. m. Fireworks display.

Saturday, March 14:

6:30 p. m. Engineer's banquet with crowning of senior engineers as Knights of Saint Patrick.

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MRS WALTER FERGUSON

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was part of her "racket," but she seems to enjoy it.

Now, her advice has been printed from one end of the land to the other—let me tell you some things about herself that she hasn't had published. She can manage a house fairly well, but she cops all honors as the world's worst cook. There's only one dish that she can do justice with, and that's slaw. She's as gullible as they make them, and is an easy mark for every house to house solicitor that comes along. This probably explains the fact that she'll let anyone take up her time, for she wouldn't insult a fly. Right now she's probably serving on some committee or reading a book report to the bridge club, just because they were counting on her. She has a diabolical habit of hiding things all over the house, and under the pretense of putting something away, she will stow it into some God-forsaken place where even the devil couldn't find it. For instance, let a member of the family or a guest come in and lay something down as harmless as a package of cigarets, and she'll eye it with fiendish glee and then when your back is turned—Presto! it is "put away"—never to be found again.

But despite all that—she is in the vernacular of a college student "OK."

The understanding and common sense that she manages to put into her articles are also used at home. She will forgive anything and can understand anything. She professes to hate sentiment, but it is only a ruse to hide one of the most sentimental souls in the world. She seldom worries and then only about trifles, for she trusts her family and her friends and she would, and often does, do anything for them. She has the one saving grace of tolerance—a sharp sense of humor. That and her unwarped, good common sense, which she applies to everyone and every situation, are her

two great virtues. Her faults are few—at least, I think so. For I'm her oldest, and perhaps you've already guessed, her boldest, son.

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thereon are to be paid at the rate of approximately \$40,000.00 yearly.

Neither the stadium nor the Union building are complete. When completed and furnished the total cost of both projects will be in excess of \$1,000,000.00 without cost to the state. In its present state of completion the Union building contains the following facilities:

1. Offices for the student government and various student organizations.
2. Meeting and committee rooms for student organizations, literary, and honorary societies and religious organizations.
3. Assembly room for large groups.
4. The offices of *The Sooner*, the university year book published by the students.
5. Lounge and study room, not finished but partially furnished and in use daily.
6. The Y. M. C. A. and student employment office.
7. One unfurnished part of the building used for class rooms and offices by the university. It contains six class rooms and two offices.
8. The alumni office.
9. The alumni placement bureau.
10. Ball room.
11. Cafeteria and soda fountain.
12. Amusements hall, containing billiards, bowling, and pool.
13. News stand.
14. The university book exchange.

All activities in the building are operated in the interests of the students and the university. Food and other prices are kept as low as possible.

Part-time student help is employed in all departments. The Union employs more student labor than any single enterprise in Norman. The payroll for student employees during the school year 1929-30 was \$17,497.12. Approximately sixty students are employed at the university rate of thirty-five cents an hour which is considerably in excess of the rate at which most of the type of labor employed could be obtained. Recently *The Oklahoma Daily* published a survey showing that many private business houses were employing students at rates as low as eleven cents an hour for exactly the same type of work the Union pays thirty-five cents.

Most large universities have student Unions similar to the University of Oklahoma Union. A fee is charged in all such schools and almost without exception this fee is in excess of \$2.50. The usual charge is \$5.00 each semester and in some cases as much as \$10.00 is charged each student enrolled. At the University of Wisconsin approximately \$900,000.00 was contributed by alumni but the 9,000 students pay \$5.00 each semester for the upkeep and maintenance of the Union.

Enrollment fees at the University of Oklahoma are lower than any state university in this section of the country. The general fees which are a "prerequisite to enrollment" are infirmary, \$2.50; library, \$1.50; and Union \$2.50, total \$6.50. A few courses require laboratory fees to cover the cost of instructional material. Many state universities have a matriculation fee, which is larger than our general fees, in addition to much larger fees of all types. Required fees at the University of Oklahoma are without exception fewer and smaller than fees of the Universities of Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa State, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin. Most of these schools have Student Union Buildings or have plans for building them.