

Toward Finer Oklahoma Schools

A SANE and constructive solution of Oklahoma's educational problems is sought in a campaign sponsored jointly by University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical college Alumni associations. With the added support of the Oklahoma Education association, the drive toward a solution of the state's forty-million-dollar educational problems has been gaining the support of thousands of persons throughout the state.

At its commencement-homecoming meeting on the campus, the University alumni association expressed itself anxious to carry on the campaign started under the leadership of Chester Westfall, Ponca City, retiring president of the University association, Charles H. Bloom, president of the A. and M. college association, and George D. Hann, Clinton, president of the Oklahoma Education association.

The plan provides for the establishment by the next legislature of a committee of the state's leading citizens to make a study of the entire educational program in Oklahoma. Letters suggesting the wisdom of such a step have been sent to all candidates for state offices, candidates for the state senate and house of representatives, all hold-over senators, all county superintendents, all state newspaper editors, chamber of commerce managers in the state's larger cities, and presidents of all Rotary, Ki-

wanis and Lions clubs in Oklahoma.

"We suggest that such a committee should include the heads of some of the state supported higher educational institutions, some of the state's most able educators now working directly in the public schools, and the state superintendents of public instruction," the letter announced. "Additional membership, making up a majority of the entire committee, should be composed of outstanding public spirited citizens, not directly connected technically with the education system but generally recognized to be interested both in saving the taxpayers' dollars and in providing properly for the educational needs of the state.

"This committee could undoubtedly quickly agree on certain necessary changes in the laws of the state and report them back for the consideration of the same legislature. The entire plan, large as it is, could be worked out over a period of the succeeding one or two years.

"There is one urgently necessary step in solving the problem about which there can be no question. This is the effective removal of higher educational institutions from any danger of partisan or personal political domination or interference. Economy in the expenditure of taxpayers' money, high scholarship standards, efficient educational service can not exist in even the threat of its presence. Our own two

institutions and every single other part of the entire educational system are injured by any application of political interference, it matters not what part of the entire system is the one directly affected. We urge you to study this problem. We feel sure you will agree that a real step forward would be constitutional amendments providing boards of regents for the A. & M. and other agricultural schools, the University, the Oklahoma College for Women, and probably other schools or groups of schools, which boards of regents would be outside any danger of political domination at any time.

"We ask no selfish consideration for the institutions whose alumni we represent. We are justly proud of the University and the A. & M. college. They must be properly supported or they cannot provide a service vital to the present and the future of Oklahoma. We assume they will receive this support.

"As citizens and alumni we call your attention to this entire state educational problem. Involving as it does the training of tomorrow's citizens and the expenditure of so many millions of the taxpayers' dollars, we are sure it is among Oklahoma's most urgently pressing problems. We beg for it careful study by all public spirited citizens and as early action as the size and complications of the problem will permit."

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Hammond Wins Trip Abroad

Scott Hammond, '33eng, '33as, has been awarded a trip abroad as the result of work done at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Hammond was awarded a scholarship to M.I.T. last year following his graduation from the University. He will go to his home in Oklahoma City in the fall when he returns from a tour of England and Scotland.

Here are six members of the alumni executive board and three other alumni who were active during commencement-homecoming. Left to right, they are Chester Westfall, retiring president; Frank S. Cleckler, secretary; Mrs. Mary Gilkey Turnbull, assistant in the alumni office; Errett Newby, board member; T. Jack Foster, board member; George C. Smith, commencement speaker; Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, board member; Charles Memminger, board member; A. Gordon C. Bierer, first vice-president elect; and Ernie Hill, "Sooner Magazine" editor.

