

Bizzell attack brings support for him

A widely printed rumor to the effect that a certain group in the State Senate claimed lines were drawn for Dr. W. B. Bizzell's removal as president of the University caused a wave of newspaper comment in late January, and most of the comment was in praise of Dr. Bizzell's record at Norman.

Newspaper commentators expressed doubt that there was much substance to the rumor, but many sounded a warning that political maneuverings sometimes do result in the removal of an able man, and that the state should be watchful.

The discussion started with the publication of a United Press dispatch written by Frank McNaughton, in which he said "Several leading senators believe they have at last placed Dr. Bizzell on the skids."

"They will not talk openly," McNaughton wrote, "but privately they say that when the Senate had up for confirmation Gov. E. W. Marland's reappointment of Joe Looney, Wewoka, and C. C. Hatchett, Durant, to the Board of Regents of the University, Dr. Bizzell's early dismissal was arranged."

McNaughton added, however, that one of the regents told him: "There's more opposition to Dr. Bizzell in the Senate than there is among the Regents."

Mr. Looney, in a statement to the *Norman Transcript* flatly denied the charge that the senators opposed to Dr. Bizzell had obtained a majority in the Board of Regents through his confirmation for a new term. Mr. Looney said:

I have been closely associated with the University for many years. I spent five years on the campus as a student, working my way through the college of arts and sciences and the law school. During 2½ years of this time I was a student assistant, teaching in the Department of Government. Then as state senator for four years, the University received considerable attention at my hands. Finally as a member of the Board of Regents I have devoted considerable time and attention to the University, at a personal sacrifice. Naturally, therefore, I covet for the University a lasting good name, continued progress, and an enlarged opportunity of service to the people of Oklahoma. I am proud of the University, and love the University to the extent that it is my ambition that, in due course of time, my two children can also claim O. U. as their alma mater.

I have been privileged to serve on the Board of Regents for almost ten years—under four different governors and by appointment from three of them. Incidentally I never asked any of them for the appointment; furthermore no strings were tied or attempted to be tied to any appointment or confirmation.

I have observed the recent publicity reflecting upon my integrity and intelligence as well as upon that of the State Senate by suggesting the contrary in one particular. A denial of that

NEWSPAPERS COMMENTING ON OUSTER RUMORS URGE THAT UNIVERSITY BE KEPT FREE OF STATE POLITICS

charge is wholly unnecessary to those who really know me, and a denial to those who do not know me probably will do little if any good. However, I did not make any agreement with the State Senate or any committee thereof or any member or group of members of the Senate to the effect that I would help "fire" Dr. Bizzell as a condition for my confirmation. Neither did I make any agreement to the effect that I would help retain Dr. Bizzell as a condition for my confirmation. In morals one agreement would be just as wrong as the other. Moreover such an agreement would be just as wrong for a senator as for a regent. And to the credit of the State Senate, let it be added that no senator asked me to make any such agreement.

You asked about my attitude towards Dr. Bizzell. In view of recent publicity, any expression of my attitude at this time would probably be construed as a promise. Having made no agreement about Dr. Bizzell I do not propose to make any statement about him which might be construed as a promise.

Furthermore, I shall do in the future as I have done in the past—perform my duty according to my own best judgment under the facts and circumstances then existing for the best interests of the University and the state and with fidelity to my oath and the people of Oklahoma.

C. C. HATCHETT, of Durant, president of the Board of Regents, wrote a letter to McNaughton protesting the publication of the rumors about Dr. Bizzell. Mr. Hatchett wrote as follows:

Replying to your letter of January 28, I thank your statement which appeared in a number of newspapers on January 27 was most unfortunate. I do not think that rumors such as you mention should ever get into the press. Had you written me before your article was published, you would have ascertained definitely the facts and I am sure that you would not then have sent your article out for publication.

The job of being a regent at the University has no financial remuneration, and is a financial burden. There is a lot of work attached and much responsibility. The Regents are earnestly co-operating with the administrative officers of the University, not in playing politics, but in building the greatest university in the Southwest. That success is attending our joint efforts is attested by the tremendous and continuous increase in enrolment. I prefer to confine my efforts in assisting in this great undertaking. By this, I mean that I have no statement to give to the press, either refuting or admitting anything you said.

Editorial comment over the state was

generally critical of the threat of political "meddling" in affairs of the University.

"What with the biggest money tangle in Oklahoma history on its hands, the honorable Senate would seem to have enough to do without taking over the management and control of Oklahoma University," said the *Daily Oklahoman*.

Walter Harrison, of the *Oklahoma City Times*, who many times has not seen eye to eye with Dr. Bizzell, rallied to his defense in this case. Said Mr. Harrison in his personal column:

We should like to see this sniping against the president of the University of Oklahoma brought out into the open. The story referred to indicated that the Senate bloc wants Dr. A. Linscheid, president of East Central State Teachers college at Ada, at the head of the University. In addition to being an able school man, Dr. Linscheid is a smooth politician.

Probably Dr. Bizzell is not the greatest college president in the country, but we think he has done a splendid job in most adverse circumstances at Norman. It would be a misfortune if he were euchered out by the meddling gentlemen of the upper house who want to run everything to their own personal and political advantage.

The *Norman Transcript* in a front page editorial under the title "New Threat to O. U." also urged that the opposition to President Bizzell be brought into the open.

The *Transcript*, edited by Fred E. Tarmann, '10as, former president of the University of Oklahoma association, had this to say:

State senators who have been fighting Dr. Bizzell under cover for some time have become bold enough that they privately predict he will not be head of the school next September.

There has been so much smoke in this situation for the past two or three months that it begins to look like there must be fire concealed somewhere, and if so, every loyal supporter of the University who is opposed to a change in the presidency should consider seriously what he can do to prevent it.

The alumni association, it seems to us, should bring this matter into the open. If the senators believe they have persuaded a majority of the regents to sacrifice Dr. Bizzell on the altar of politics, let's find out the truth.

Certainly Dr. Bizzell has done a good job of building the University. His difficulties with some legislators are due entirely to his refusals to grant them special favors and meet patronage demands.

The politicians have driven two good presidents out of the University in past years, and the school suffered grievously for several years after each change. Now we are again on top in the matter of enrolment, high scholarship, educational efficiency, and national prestige.

We believe the people of this state have confidence in the University and in Dr. Bizzell. There is no call for a change in the presidency except from a few disgruntled senators.

It is the job of the alumni and friends of the

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Eastman Survey instruments will be demonstrated, and the ways of mapping sub-surface structures will be shown.

This exhibit also will show how formations may be correlated by means of a knowledge of paleontology.

Drawings representing finished problems assigned students in architecture will be displayed by the School of Architectural Engineering. Drawings for the proposed new buildings for the campus, including those for Petroleum Engineering, Home Economics, Geology and Physics will be on display. The plans were designed by Joseph E. Smay, director of the school.

Some marvels of science will be demonstrated by the School of Engineering Physics. These will include a fountain which discharges water at a higher pressure than that at which it enters, radio or high frequency surgery, the floating steel ball on milk, the love-o-meter, the singing flame, and a method of obtaining electricity from fire.

The openhouse, as well as the entire St. Pat's celebration, is being planned under the general direction of the St. Pat's council.



BIZZELL ATTACK BRINGS SUPPORT FOR HIM

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institution at this time to expose this plot, show what is behind it, and make impossible its success.

We can save the University from the politicians if we make the effort.

The *Oklahoma News* also praised Dr. Bizzell's record and criticized the opposition to him. An editorial in the *News* stated:

Friends of the University must realize that Dr. Bizzell has done good work in a difficult position. Politics cannot be wholly eliminated from a state school that must go before every session of the Legislature seeking needed funds, but Dr. Bizzell's chief purpose has been the betterment of the school. Since the depression came, he has seen his budget whittled unreasonably, but he has done his best with available means.

His best has been creditable. His experience there and his knowledge of the real needs of the school tend to make him more valuable with the passing years. He is in a position to plan the future more intelligently than a newcomer might. Dr. Bizzell rejected another school presidency that paid more than this state paid him, and did so because he has a real interest in the progress of O. U.

The very fact that politics can still apply the spoils system to the University makes it unlikely that the regents can find an abler man to succeed him, who will be willing to accept the place.

The rumor in the United Press article that President Bizzell might resign because of poor health is entirely without foundation, Dr. Bizzell stated.

The *Enid News* was sharply outspoken in criticism of the reputed political attack on the University. In an editorial entitled "Oklahoma Politics Goes Back to School" it said in part:

"The slimy hand of petty, dirty politics is again endeavoring to reach into the state's highest educational institution, and yank therefrom an able educator, not because he is not a good educator, but because he expends his efforts largely in educational endeavor, rather than in the playing of politics in the sordid form which seems to be the only form in which too many Oklahoma office holders conceive it."

The editorial adds that "Political squabbles over the presidency of both the University and A. and M. college are nothing new in the state, and have long contributed to the unrest and lack of unified educational efforts in these schools supported by public monies."

The *Tulsa Tribune*, declaring that most of the teachers colleges and junior colleges in the state were established for political purposes, charged that political trading among representatives of institutional districts has led to over-loading the state's budget.

Said the *Tribune*:

Is it any wonder that University of Oklahoma alumni complain that their alma mater is given less money per student than other state universities? With so many schools to support, and with each school having its supporters in the legislature, it is impossible to appropriate the money needed for the University and Oklahoma A. and M. The politicians' pets must be taken care of.

What remedy is proposed by the self-styled friends of the University of Oklahoma in the legislature? Some of them are said to be demanding that the Board of Regents fire Dr. W. B. Bizzell, an educator, and employ Dr. A. Linscheid of Central Teachers college, Ada, as president, "because Linscheid is one of the smoothest politicians in the state and it takes political maneuvering to run the university and get along with the governor and the legislature."

In brief, the legislators' remedy for too much politics in education and too many political schools is more politics in the University of Oklahoma.

Bring on the ax handles!



16 NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 132)

Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Kansas.

The other new Life Members are:

Jim Robinson, '32law, head of the Speech Department in Bristow High School.

C. Guy Brown, '23as, head of the Commercial Department in Central High School, Oklahoma City.

Curtis Grimes, '33law, Norman attorney.

J. C. Mayfield, '28as, Marietta, state educational representative for Houghton Mifflin, publishers.

Andrew Fraley, '30ex, chief clerk of the State House of Representatives, Oklahoma City.

Dr. James O. Hood, '29as, physician and mayor of Norman, and a leader in Cleveland county Democratic affairs.

Leda Gibbins, '28ex, social service director in Jeffercon county.

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