

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Loss of Sears Is Blow To State Pride

No matter how we may gloss over the fact that Oklahoma wasn't good enough to keep a first-rate and rapidly-ascending scientist on the faculty of its state university, the fact remains that Dr. Paul B. Sears left because he was convinced that there was little hope for a substantial salary at O.U.

An Oklahoma City newspaper wired Dr. Sears—now on leave of absence at Columbia University, New York City—and asked him the reasons for his resignation.

In his somewhat cryptic reply, Dr. Sears stated, in part: "I am reluctant to discuss publicly the full ramifications of my resignation. But I might say that I consider man more important than buildings."

This published statement only confused the discussion. The University needs good men and it needs more buildings for its 6,000-plus students. It needs both so badly that few members of the administration would attempt to put special emphasis on either need. In making requests to the Legislature, the need for better faculty salaries and the need for more buildings are both presented as emphatically as possible.

But regardless of the ramifications, one clear fact stands out. Low salaries at the University of Oklahoma have deprived the state of the services of another brilliant man. Five other young faculty-authors have resigned recently: Dr. Robert K. Carr, Dr. John Ewing and Dr. Frederick L. Ryan, Dr. A. B. Thomas, and Dr. Duane E. Roller.

It is curious to note that in resigning, Dr. Sears has, indirectly, performed a final service to the University that might be of great value. Following a habit of his, he has dramatized the University's low-salary problem.

Dr. Sears first came into the national spotlight when the University Press published his book, *Deserts on the March*. This book dramatized the problem of soil erosion, with particular reference to the Dust Bowl. The public responded amazingly to this scientifically sound book which presented information in an interesting, dramatized fashion.

The University botanist began to receive invitations to lecture to all kinds of groups—farmers, business men, bankers. To all of them he was able to dramatize the soil erosion problem in such effective terms that they could grasp the problem easily.

Only recently, another Sears book, *This Is Our World*, rolled from the University Press. An ambitious synthesis of the natural sciences, this book also managed to dramatize a scholarly subject—the inter-relationships of the plant and animal groups in functional communities.

Friends of the University, regretting the loss of such an able man from the faculty, now may give thanks to Dr. Sears for his final service—that of dramatizing the low faculty salaries at the University.

Let's don't try to shush-shush that resignation. Let's shout it out loud to the people of Oklahoma, and tell them the why of it. Then when we ask the next Legislature for adequate salary appropriations, they will know what we are talking about.

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New Proof O.U. Is Not 'Expensive'

If there is any one thing that makes O.U. administrative officials and alumni officials really honest-to-goodness mad, it's to hear some poorly informed Oklahoman remark that the University of Oklahoma is an "expensive" place to send a boy or girl to school.

Those members of the University staff who are personally acquainted with working students who are going through the University on perhaps \$5 a month and what little they can earn *know* that it is not an expensive campus. When a boy can live

and get his meals in the co-operative dormitory under one wing of the Stadium for less than \$15 a month, they *know* that you can't beat that on many campuses.

But you don't have to take the word of University officials. The New York Life Insurance Company, which presumably has no favorites among the various universities and colleges of the nation, has recently issued a little booklet listing the total minimum four-year cost of attending 105 leading colleges in the United States.

Of this list of more than a hundred, only *nine* are shown in this list to have lower minimum costs than the University of Oklahoma. A total of ninety-two have higher minimum costs, and three are shown the same as the figure at O.U.

Compared to the wide range of costs shown on the national list, there is little difference between the minimum costs shown for the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma A. and M. College. The figure given for the University is \$1,600 and that for A. and M. is \$1,400.

Parents who hesitate to send their children to O.U. for fear of heavy extra expenses are evidently laboring under a delusion.

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Spring Is Here, And Merrily Boo the Lawyers

The grass has turned green, leaves are a respectable size on the campus elms, and iris, forsythia and jonquils are coloring the yards along Boyd and Asp and Jenkins and Elm and Boulevard. But even more certain herald of the coming of Spring is the daily assemblage of law students on the steps of the Law Barn before and after classes.

"What's happening over there?" asks a curious freshman. "It's just Spring . . . and the lawyers always . . . Oh, well," the old timer finishes lamely.

Yells and jeers and occasionally applause meet each student or groups of students who walk past the Law Barn, as the embryo counselors and chief justices, or perhaps J.P.'s, sun themselves and improve their vocal chords.

Campus Watchman Moberley, mellowed by nearly twenty years of exposure to campus vagaries, spends late afternoons trying to keep roller skaters of high school age—and some of University age—away from the walks near classroom buildings.

A professor tries to put extra spirit into a one o'clock lecture but he sees the minds of his students wandering out the open windows, drowsing in the reflected sunlight. The professor frowns to bring his own mind back from fishing tackle or golf clubs.

On the grass between Union and Monnet Hall, students who are happily without a class for an hour, are sprawled on the seats of Memorial Fountain, or comfortably on the grass.

Meanwhile, a newspaper arrives from Oklahoma City. An editorial says in part: "Recently grim-visaged business men have been shaking doleful heads, and heard to say there should be an investigation of Communistic activities at the University of Oklahoma at Norman."

The editorial adds, however, "That will seem as funny to students at O.U. as it did to the K.U. students, if they happen to read this."

Communism? Not in Spring on the campus at O.U. It is barely possible to imagine some small isolated group of maladjusted students meeting in a basement room on a cold winter night to discuss Communism like small boys smoking in the barn. But in the Spring? Not at O.U.

Bring on your investigating committee. We'll set them under a tree, bring around some of our most interesting students and faculty members and have a good bull session—if we can stay awake.