

As the State Press Sees It

THE name of the University has appeared often in the state press during the last few months. The budget request, the Holliman plan for co-ordinating educational institutions, and the charges of communistic teaching leveled against unnamed faculty members all were popular subjects for editorial writers.

The *Daily Oklahoman* and *Harlow's Weekly* of Oklahoma City, and the *Tulsa Tribune* published strong editorials emphasizing the importance of adequate financial support for the University of Oklahoma.

Immediately after the University's budget hearing before a joint legislative committee, the *Daily Oklahoman* published the following editorial:

WHICH WAY, GENTLEMEN?

It is for the legislature to decide whether Oklahoma University shall rank among the great state universities or become just another one of Oklahoma's amazingly large number of ordinary state institutions.

And it is possible that the future of Oklahoma University will be determined for all time within the next fifty days.

The legislature can hurt Oklahoma University irreparably without wanting to do so or without even trying to do so. It can make the university a second grade institution through the coming years merely by regarding it as an ordinary state institution and assigning it to the level occupied by something like a dozen other state institutions.

It can help to deprive the University of nationwide recognition and nationwide respect by postponing action upon its needs and requirements until after the other institutions of the state have been provided for.

It can insure the University's secondary rank by giving the other schools approximately what they ask for and then giving the University a portion of what is left.

It can make it certain that the University will find a permanent place among the least important universities by repeating what the Sixteenth Legislature did when it gave the University considerably less money to maintain itself than was given to the A. and M. College.

Extraordinary conditions at Stillwater may have justified the extraordinary favors shown the A. and M. in preference to the University two years ago. The A. and M. is a great institution and it is doing admirable work. But it does not occupy and it never was intended to occupy first place in Oklahoma education and culture and scholarship.

Moreover, every citizen who knows anything about Oklahoma politics knows that the 1937 discrimination in favor of the A. and M. at the expense of the University was due to the bold and undeniable fact that some school men have played politics and other school men have refused to play politics. Needs and merit had nothing in the world to do with the discrimination.

Now another legislature is in session and again there is a determined drive to make the future of the University precarious. Again there is a disposition to make the University the first and principal victim of all the economy programs. Again there is some disposition to consider its needs last of all.

Meanwhile, there is a determined effort on the part of certain political adventurers to advertise the University as a veritable hotbed and safe harbor of the forces of sedition. Men whose democ-

racy and patriotism have never before been questioned are being pilloried as the disguised but active agents of subversive forces.

At the same time men who may have devoted a lifetime to the advocacy of Marxian principles could remain unmolested, unchallenged, and uncriticized on the faculty of any other tax supported school of the state.

Such tactics mean that eventually and perhaps speedily Oklahoma University will become one of the most obscure and inefficient of the universities of America. They mean that the University will presently find place among schools of the mail order rank. They mean that presently Oklahoma will have many schools of secondary importance and decidedly low cultural standards and not one school that will command the respect of American scholarship.

We protest against a tendency to give Oklahoma the reputation of being one of most unenlightened and least cultivated states of the Union.

Which way shall Oklahoma University go, gentlemen of the legislature? Shall it be treated as a great university of even greater potentialities or shall it be assigned to a place among those mushroom institutions that clutter up the State?

Harlow's Weekly published this editorial:

TWO UNIVERSITIES?

There has been a very remarkable change in the attitude of Oklahoma legislators in the field of higher education.

A few years ago the University was the peak of the system, financially as well as in reputation. With the largest enrolment in any Oklahoma institution and with the prestige, accepted for many years, of being the apex of the scholarship of the system, with its professional and graduate schools, it naturally received appropriations correspondingly dominant.

But within recent years a change has come over the spirit of the State of Oklahoma. The University is still the largest institution in the State in the point of enrolment. It still has the professional and graduate schools and still, by virtue of the position of primacy universally accorded to the state university in any state's educational system, is looked upon as the head of the educational institutions. But it no longer has the superior financial support.

The A. and M. College has moved to the top of the list. Last year the appropriations for the two institutions were in the comparable amounts of \$1,314,520 for the University and \$1,652,960 for the A. and M. College. The totals shown for the current year by the proposed institutional bill by Chairman Holliman of the House committee are \$1,683,728 for the University and \$2,497,671 for the A. and M. College. This in the face of the fact that the regular enrolment in the University for 1937-38 was 6,743 students and the regular enrolment in the A. and M. College was 5,142 students.

This discrepancy comes in the most unexpected places. For example, under the proposed bill for the next fiscal year, the University is to receive \$76,167 for the College of Business Administration, while the correlative department of the A. and M. College is to receive \$94,283. The business office at the University is to receive \$16,622 while the business office at the A. and M. College is to receive \$37,336. The University is given a mailing clerk at \$1,620; the A. and M. College is given a college post office at \$8,000. The department of education in the University is given \$46,862; the department of education in the A. and M. College is given \$52,619. Even the University graduate school, the special characteristic

of a fullfledged University, is given \$9,419, and for the A. and M. College is provided \$34,197. For the purpose of handling the school population, covering the problem of human relations, the dean of men at the University is given \$5,907 and the corresponding office at A. and M. is given \$11,950; the dean of women at the University is provided with \$7,700, and the dean of women at A. and M., \$9,200.

The department of engineering in the University which includes in it the petroleum engineering school and which is one of the outstanding schools in this field in the world, is provided with \$112,999 while the engineering department at A. and M. is given \$178,467.

In the matter of physical provision, the University, for heat, light, water and power is given \$24,200 and A. and M. College, \$60,500. The department of home economics is given \$21,499 at the University but is given \$70,657 at the A. and M.

These are not all of the disproportions discernible; they are merely representative. It is true that not every case shows similar disproportion; some of the other departments show an advantage to the University but with the exception of the department of foreign languages, the places where the University appropriations are larger will show very small differences and there are not many of them.

The reason for this shift is not apparent. It may represent a deliberate intention upon the part of the state of Oklahoma to abandon the purpose of heading its system with a great cultural University at Norman. The state mind may be to make the A. and M. College the greater institution in the field of exact scholarship and professions as well as in the agricultural and mechanical activities embedded in its name, which were the reasons for its foundation. If that is to be the policy of the state, it ought to be stated clearly and the pretense of building the professional and scholarly center in the University, as is done usually in other states, ought to be abandoned. If A. and M. at Stillwater is to be another Cornell University for Oklahoma, the people ought to be advised. Certainly the task ought not to be undertaken by indirection, without a clear statement of policy.

Of course persons experienced in government will associate this shift with the well-known political capacity of the administration of the A. and M. College. Henry G. Bennett is one of the consummate politicians of Oklahoma, of a capacity great enough that a serious and powerful effort was made last year to make him the center of a campaign for governor in which it was admitted generally that he would be a very serious contender. The political prestige and actual capacity has given to the president of A. and M. College an advantage that he has used for the benefit of his institution.

It is entirely probable that this factor more than any deliberate shift of intent upon the part of the state as a whole, is what has effected the change.

In this situation the importance of Governor Phillips' now obvious emphasis upon the co-ordinating board becomes apparent. This board, if it functions as it can, will establish a co-ordinated program for the Oklahoma colleges free from the interference of purely political considerations, with each institution in its proper sphere and with a unified purpose running through them all. But in the meantime, the Legislature must make appropriations for the next two years and the situation to which this article first calls attention ought not to be perpetuated. Any comparison of financial provision for the two great institutions ought not be unfavorable to the University.

The problem of higher education in Oklahoma was discussed by the *Tulsa Tribune* in the following editorial:

POLITICS VS. EDUCATION

It is in Universities the real worth of a people mirrors itself.—Haldane.

Oklahoma is beginning to pay the price of its citizens' neglect. Oklahoma is beginning to reap what she has sown. Oklahoma's pet pastime has been sowing seeds of political folly. Oklahoma is beginning now to feel the cost of the consummate stupidity of the territorial legislators and governors whose chief concern was making political trades, passing out political plums instead of doing the work of statesmen.

The best of Oklahoma's governors have been only half smart. They all built upon a basis of political trades that forced this state to spend beyond its income and constantly impoverished our citizens with increasing tax burdens. To resist such increasing burdens on the backs of the people was most ancient among Democratic party doctrines. But in the last few years the Democratic party has reversed itself totally in every one of its traditional principles, repudiating state's rights and centralizing government in one autocratic head. That has been the round-about-face of the Democratic party since the "Yipper" Democrat, the "Yellow Dog" Democrat, through citizens' indifference, have gotten control.

So in tax matters. From the days of Thomas Jefferson down until recent years the Democratic party has fought against increasing tax burdens. Today it is the champion of increasing tax burdens, and gullible voters, voting the name of grandfather's party rather than grandfather's principles, have voted to increase tax burdens until the tax load has reached the backs of all, rich and poor alike, placing it as much on what economists call the "lower brackets" as upon the higher brackets.

Added to all these reversals of Democratic principles, which are common to all states that have endorsed the political shysters, Oklahoma is now feeling the burden of maintaining cumbersome institutional plums.

We have more teachers' colleges than a state needs. No other state has its own Vassar or Wellesley. Purely for political purposes we planted a state women's college for the choice girls whose protective parents thought it best their daughters not go to a co-educational institution.

Fine daughters from fine families in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, California, call the roll, could perfectly well go to the co-educational state university, but the political horse traders who shaped Oklahoma's institutions attempted to do everything that the commonwealth college is supposed to do in other states and, to boot, use the taxpayers' money to also do that which only private initiative and endowment do in other states.

Oklahoma established a separate agricultural college and very carefully put it where the fertile soil is thin. Its president may have gubernatorial aspirations. However that may be, substantial appropriations for the "cow college" are granted and then the president of the agricultural college eliminates himself from the political field.

While building better high schools in every county and community as fast as the taxpayers' money will permit, what other state feels it necessary to dig deeper into the taxpayers' pocket to strengthen a politician's hold upon his community by establishing a Culver Military academy and paying its increasing cost out of Mr. John Citizen's pants' pockets?

The territorial blue-printers of Oklahoma overlooked one bet. They forgot to place in some community a state-supported Amherst or Dartmouth for the boys who are too he-mannish to share with girls a common college campus.

For the first time in Oklahoma's history we seem to have a governor who has vision and horse sense. The only thing that will prevent

Governor Phillips from putting Oklahoma on a pay-as-you-go basis is the fact that we still have in our Legislature a lot of representatives and senators who are of the low caliber and the dull mentality that has been Oklahoma's costly tradition.

The University of Michigan is a great university backed by a great state. Michigan also maintains its separate agricultural and mechanical institution, a most excellent institution at Lansing. But Michigan had the good sense not to put the cart before the horse as Oklahoma has been doing for the last ten years. The great commonwealth college at Ann Arbor, and not the one at Lansing, is the institution that is internationally known. It is Ann Arbor, and not Lansing, that has lifted Michigan into the industrial commonwealth that it is today.

Let no legislature in Oklahoma City ever get the silly notion that Stillwater is going to give Oklahoma an international reputation for a creative cultural power. If Oklahoma ever has such an enviable reputation it will come from Norman

It's Good To See Yourself As Others See You—Here's What They Write About O. U.

and no where else. And this is not to discount the necessary work to be done by such a college as the State maintains at Stillwater. Nor is it a plea that State support of Stillwater be slackened. But it is the argument of proven performance that the state works against its own interest when it builds an agricultural college at the cost of the state university.

Ohio points with pride to its great state university. So do the Hoosiers in Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, and others, likewise. States have refined themselves as their commonwealth colleges have grown in efficiency.

Oklahoma is about the geographic size of Wisconsin. Though we are only one-third as old in years, Oklahoma is so rich in resources and productive power we have lured here a population that almost equals Wisconsin's. Oklahoma's population will soon surpass Wisconsin's. But the people of Wisconsin have built one of the foremost universities in all the world. It is the institution in which the people of Wisconsin invest their staunchest pride. Whatever other expenses must be curtailed, people willingly pay the bill to increase, year by year, the maintenance budget and needed buildings of that great university.

And Oklahoma, with its growth, lags. Nothing but stupid legislators and equally stupid governors have caused this lag. The University of Oklahoma has added but one building in ten years. Yet of all the educational institutions in the State, Oklahoma parents and students alike have chosen the courses in the State University at Norman so increasingly that the student population has grown at the rate of about five hundred a year until now more than seven thousand students are at Norman.

Yet what have stupid legislators and governors done to those students? Next to nothing. The result is, classrooms are overcrowded, students work in discomfort and professors are overworked. Perhaps the latter matters little. But work is made inefficient. That matters much. That means that our Oklahoma students are not getting a dollar's worth of education for the dollars allocated in the meager appropriations our legislators give Norman.

So rich a state as Oklahoma should grow industrially and commercially rich. There is only one way this growth can come. That is by lifting the cultural quality of the people.

Colleges made a rich New England on rocky, grubby ground. Oklahoma will become rich in industries when her state university takes rank with the great commonwealth colleges of America: Michigan, Wisconsin, California and others.

Much mischief is rooted in Oklahoma soil. But now that the multiple educational institutions have been established by near-sighted, dull-witted territorial legislatures, Governor Phillips proposes to perfect that consolidation which will extend the college life of the students in every section of state by making the first year of university work at least more accessible in the regional teachers' college. This will relieve the room strain at Norman, which is now already overtaxed.

Have we legislators who see the sense in this? Or are we still to be the victims of our own folly in sending to our legislative chambers Democrats to whom the principles, purposes and practices of Thomas Jefferson are stranger, who yip and yip at party courthousing rallies and know not what the word "Democracy" means.

Feeble legislatures make a feeble state university. And a feeble university makes a feeble state. This is the lesson that the citizens of Oklahoma must learn and when they learn it, at high cost, they will elect legislators who are smart enough to see it.

The Holliman plan for co-ordinating educational institutions in the State calls for a division of them into three groups, a University group, an agricultural college group, and a teacher college group. It calls for a clear line of demarcation between the work offered in the various groups, particularly between the University and Oklahoma A. and M. College, but would co-ordinate work of junior colleges so that most students could get two years of preparation for the University or for the A. and M. College close to their homes.

Joseph E. Howell, writing in the *Ponca City News*, commented:

This would permit freshmen and sophomores aiming at graduation from the University to take their first two years work nearer home without suffering any penalty either in loss of credits or quality of instruction.

Similarly, the first two years of work for students seeking a vocational education could be obtained at one of the junior vocational or agricultural colleges and the upper class work done at Stillwater.

This arrangement would permit full use of the facilities at the smaller schools and should reduce the necessity for expansion of facilities at O.U. and A. and M.

Harlow's Weekly, Oklahoma City, commenting on Governor Phillips appointment of a new co-ordinating board, pointed out that the law establishing the board was passed six years ago during the William H. Murray administration, appears to put drastic power in the hands of the governor. The editorial stated in part:

The operations of the board for the past six years have not been of consequence. That this period of innocuous desuetude is about to end is evident from the fact that Governor Phillips has made the appointment of a new board one of the early acts of his administration. That he intends to see that this authority is exercised and under his own supervision is clearly manifest. And that this activity will be significant and loaded with possible dynamite in many places in many schools, is just as evident. The form of the act to all intents and purposes seems to place the control of

the entire higher educational system of this state in the hands of the governor.

So far as is known publicly, the purposes of the governor in this connection have not been revealed. But there is no doubt that he has some and there is no doubt that upon this spot, rather than any other spot, even including the financial problem, the attention of the administrators of the State's higher educational institutions ought to be concentrating.

In another issue, *Harlow's Weekly* referred to the Holliman plan as "the most intelligent approach to the problem of higher education in Oklahoma that has yet been made."

The *Norman Transcript* questioned the effectiveness of proposals heard in the legislature calling for some state colleges to be converted into institutions for freshmen from both the University and A. and M. College, leaving only upperclassmen in those institutions. Said the *Transcript*:

The plan is impractical because most high school graduates would not consent to be placed in junior colleges. If they want to attend either a state university or an A. and M. college, they would go to Kansas, Missouri, Texas, or some other state if they were denied admission to the University of Oklahoma or Oklahoma A. and M.

It is unsound educationally because of the wide variety of the courses taken by freshmen, depending upon the school or department in which they expect to major. Freshmen engineers take far different work from those who plan to enter the law school, the college of business, the medical school, the school of home economics, and so on. Students who do their freshman work in one school and then change to another would be handicapped throughout their course because of variation in methods, personnel, etc.

Another reason why the plan is not practical is that all colleges in the state now have just about as many students as they can handle, and if freshmen here (at Norman) were moved to some other school, it would have to be enlarged to care for them.

This proposal, if carried out, would complicate the general problem of education in Oklahoma and would increase, rather than decrease, the costs.

The *Oklahoma News* criticized proposals to make a four-year college of the Oklahoma Military Academy at Claremore and to convert the Wilburton college into a vocational training school. The *News* commented editorially:

The Legislature should delay action on measures changing the status of any of the state's institutions of higher learning until the governor's co-ordinating committee has time to develop a plan. Even building programs for those institutions should wait to see how their needs are modified by such a plan.

The *Ponca City News* also declared that "Oklahoma has all the state colleges, giving four-year courses, it needs."

Many editorial writers joined in urging that the charges of communistic teaching aimed at the University be thoroughly aired before the public, so that the charges could be proved or definitely refuted.

The *Sapulpa Herald* commented "The sooner the issue is thrashed out and truly settled the better for the students and the professors."

The *Oklahoma News* took Governor Phillips to task for accusing O. U. and A. and M. faculty members of "teaching communism," stating that on the face of

it, it was a thrust at academic freedom because the charges did not accuse anyone of "advocating" communism. The *News* then added:

If he is charging faculty members with advocating Communism and Fascism, with spreading propaganda for these isms and inciting classroom controversies not pertinent to the course of study, the charges merit the fullest investigation. And the accused members should be given a chance to answer as freely and as publicly as the charges have been made.

In a world gone mad with repressive measures against the human rights so dear to Americans, we cannot combat foreign doctrines by sacrificing the protection of our own civil liberties. The way to meet the issue is to face it squarely and bring all facts into the open.

We hope Mr. Phillips will do that, without pasting a black eye of intolerance on Oklahoma and its two biggest schools.

Hale V. Davis, editor of the *Oklahoma City Herald*, made a direct charge against the University in an editorial that stated in part:

In 1926, as a graduate student at O.U. the writer sat in the classes of one of the professors now under fire and heard him make radical, un-American, un-Christian statements all year and challenged his statements in nearly every class and wondered why the authorities allowed such destructive teaching to go on. We appreciate our Alma Mater, and that wonderful year's experiences and we respect Dr. Bizzell, the able president, but when that professor, who now cries for academic freedom said he hoped for, expected and intended to help see that my religious denomination's influence in Oklahoma was killed, we lost all interest in his false cry for academic freedom.

Walter M. Harrison, writing in the *Oklahoma City Times*, said that he had been hearing reports of communistic teachings at the University for years but had never found any proof. His own children, who attended the University, gave him the "horse laugh" when he questioned them about the reports, he declared. He added:

I have a great respect for the judgment of Major Eugene Kerr, who has been a member of the Board of Regents of the state university for years. He was quoted this week as saying that he has spent a great deal of time checking reports of communism among the instructors and gave it as his conclusion that THERE IS NOT A SINGLE COMMUNIST ON THE UNIVERSITY STAFF.

The capital letters above are Mr. Harrison's. Mr. Harrison also expressed the opinion that the governor should have localized his accusations by naming names and making an issue easy to dispose of. "As the matter stands," Mr. Harrison wrote, "he has cast an ugly suspicion about a large group which is unjustified and unfair."

The *Sapulpa Herald* backed Mr. Phillips in his charges. An editorial stated:

Gov. Phillips is not mincing words on the question of communism inoculations in state educational institutions. He frankly says he doesn't want it—and he has the backing of the sane-thinking, educated people of the state.

The *Norman Transcript* urged vigorously that the communism charges be investigated fully and that the University not allow the issue to be dropped until the good name of the institution is cleared. Said the *Transcript*:

Everyone who is in close touch with the Uni-

versity affairs or has a wide acquaintanceship among the faculty members knows that as a whole the faculty and administrative staff make us as fine and patriotic a group of citizens as could be found anywhere.

Like other people, faculty members vary in their social, economic, and political beliefs from conservative to liberal, with most of them at least progressive. A small minority, probably not more than 3 percent of the total, is more or less radical.

Some of those who may be classed as radical in their views have made public statements in the past on social, economic, or political issues, and such statements may be the basis, at least in part, of the charges made by Governor Phillips that the University faculty includes some communists. The governor is not specific in his charges; whatever information he may have was given to President Bizzell in closed conference.

If there are any avowed communists on the faculty and if any of them are teaching it in their classrooms, we do not know who they are. Yet this talk about communism has cropped out so frequently in the past, in legislative halls and elsewhere, that the president and board of regents should conduct a thorough, impartial investigation and get all the facts. If communists are uncovered they should be dismissed.

If none are there, a full report covering the scope of the investigation and the findings should be made that will settle definitely, authoritatively, and finally this issue. Wide interest has been shown over the state in these charges, and the University should not permit the incident to end until its good name has been cleared.

The issue of communism on the campus should be wiped out.

The *Stillwater Daily Press* stated editorially that "One is inclined to guess this uproar is a tempest in a teapot." The *Press* added:

Possibly the governor is a victim of malcontents carrying tales. Often a new governor is besieged by these fellows who hustle down to the state-house with their worries and cause momentary alarm.

The governors soon have learned to shake off the trouble-shooters in the past and a similar result is likely this time—assuming all this red stuff is as flimsy as one close to camp naturally supposes.

The *Elk City Daily News* had this to say:

If there be any professor who is attempting to "bore from within" by poisoning the minds of his students against the democracy of the United States, he should be fired without further ado. If he intends only to stimulate their minds he should be let alone.

There are many genuine "reds" on the state payroll outside the educational institutions—only they are disguised under the Democratic party label—the *Daily Oklahoman* charged. Said the *Oklahoman*.

Would it not be a joke on somebody or other if the proposed investigation of "reds" in the higher state institution should get out of hand and run into the lower schools, the state departments, and even the most intimate circles of the Democratic party? x x x

Not often in the past twenty years have the Democrats of Oklahoma been unwilling to promote a Marxian to office, provided he was willing to preach his Marxian doctrines as a Democrat instead of preaching them as a party socialist. So long as the erring brother votes the Democratic ticket he can profess and preach the extremist doctrines of Marx and Engels without question.

The *Guthrie Daily Leader* commented:

Governor Phillips is too shrewd a public official to butt his head slap-bang against the Uni-

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As the State Press Sees It

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versity of Oklahoma, and we wonder just what he has in mind toward the Norman institution. Is what is apparently a frontal attack right now merely a flank assault on something to come in the future?

Just off hand, the University and its powerful alumni association shouldn't attempt to cloak itself in a "holier than thou" garment and smirk at the governor's rebukes. Few indeed, are the public institutions in this State which can't stand a little constructive criticism. x x x

If the State Legislature can satisfy the public on why Oklahoma A. and M. College, with a lesser enrolment, receives a more handsome appropriation each biennium than the University does, the smoke will be cleared from one salient question in the current controversy. Has politics something to do with it? You can answer that one.

A public appeal made by Lowery Harrell, former member of the Board of Regents, for former students of the University to rally to its assistance was criticized by the *Enid Morning News* which stated:

An appeal is now made to the former students of the University to rally round the flag, boys, to see that friends write their representatives to support the University because "powerful interests are at work to destroy or undermine the institution, because the governor has made a direct attack upon it and is out to get it."

Could anything be more despicable than such representation? Could anything be more offensive to common honesty or more disgusting to common decency? And especially so when an appeal is made to the alumni of the University, composed as they are of our most intelligent class of citizenship. This class will see through the propaganda to the reasonableness of the procedure employed to get the facts, that the intention of the governor is not to destroy but to strengthen the University with good business administration.

On the other hand, the *Ponca City News* came to the support of President Bizzell in an editorial stating:

Efforts to embarrass President W. B. Bizzell continue and one can't help wondering about the cause for them. The head of a University needs to have a dual personality. First, he should be scholarly, a real educator who is not only capable of directing youths in the paths of learning but who also can aid in the formation of character.

He also should have, to be a great administrator, business ability. Seldom do we find both highly developed in the same person. For our part, we are quite sure that President Bizzell has the first requirement.

He has maintained a dignified position as the head of our great school. He is in the real sense a scholar and a gentleman. If he has shown a lack of business ability, that need not be entirely surprising.

It should be possible to choose an assistant for him who could supply the business brains. He has not, we are pleased to record, stooped to political intrigue and sought to control other educational institutions in this State.

He has been content to do what he could to further the interests of the institution. Perhaps, because he has refused to play politics or cater to political factions, he has failed to secure support that otherwise might have been his.

Those who are now placing him in an embarrassing position might weigh well what they are doing in order not to encourage the other type of administrator.

The *Hobart Democrat-Chief* expressed belief that political worries are a big handicap to the University. It stated editorially:

The Legislature can do a harmful job of crippling one of the leading State institutions if it

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cripples the State University. Our opinion is that Dr. Bizzell and the rest of the administrative and faculty officials of the school could do a much better job if they did not have to worry about kow-towing to the political bosses of the State.

Concern over the "campaign . . . against President Bizzell" was expressed by the *Frederick Leader*. This newspaper commented:

Oklahoma citizens may well watch with interest and not a little concern the campaign which Governor Phillips has launched against President W. B. Bizzell of the University of Oklahoma. And before the episode is closed, perhaps the people will be able to make up their minds whether there has been too much or too little politics connected with the University's management.

Dr. Bizzell is a school man, not a politician. He is an educator, not a diplomat. Under his direction the University has grown and taken high rank among like institutions in other states. As to how his ability compares with other University presidents few of the laity in Oklahoma are in a position to say—but at any rate, results obtained at Norman seem to measure up creditably with other great seats of learning in the country. . . .

Governor Phillips says the University will be taken care of—that President Bizzell is in a rut, and that it will take a little effort to get him out. With all due respect to Dr. Bizzell, who is entitled to a large measure of respect and esteem for his fine work at the University, the governor may be right. x x x

Perhaps if the president of the University were as well versed in the gentle art of persuasion of Dr. (Henry G.) Bennett—perhaps if he had the same knowledge of the men of influence in Oklahoma, if he were as well known personally to the people of the State as the president of A. and M., he would not have to scatter his School of Petroleum Engineering about over the campus as is the condition now. x x x

Now, if the governor really wants to do right by the University, and the Legislature is of the same mind, they will take into consideration its actual needs and go as far as they can to supply them.

And then, if he remains as the head of the school, President Bizzell might take a lesson from the fate of other University presidents who have lost sight of the great outside, enlarge his acquaintanceship, mix a little more politics with school policies, and thus cushion the school against the next attack that may be directed against it—or him.

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Sings from blimp

Joseph Bentonelli, '20, popular opera singer, has been busy recently singing in opera presentations at Washington, D. C., at a reception for members of Congress; at a Phi Beta Kappa program in New York City; and from a Goodyear blimp, high in the air over the national capital.

Washington newspapers reported it was the first time in radio history that an opera singer broadcast arias from a blimp. An accordion accompaniment was used, a piano apparently being beyond the capacity of a blimp.

Washington critics praised Bentonelli as the star performer in the Constitutional Hall presentations of "La Bohème."

Bentonelli appeared on the Phi Beta Kappa program in New York along with such celebrities as Dorothy Thompson, Dr. James Rowland Angell, Mark Sullivan, Dr. Roscoe Pound and others.

Bentonelli is the only member of Phi Beta Kappa, national scholastic society, now in opera.