



Scholar and Gentleman

"The alumni and friends of the University . . . are under lasting obligations to Doctor Bizzell for steering the University safely through so many troubled political waters and preparing to step aside under conditions so favorable to the future of the school."—Norman Transcript, May 15, 1940

Bizzell President Emeritus After 1941

DR. WILLIAM BENNETT BIZZELL last month submitted his resignation as president of the University of Oklahoma, effective July 1, 1941, and the Board of Regents immediately invited him to remain on the staff as president emeritus and head of the sociology department after his retirement as president.

Although President Bizzell has been subjected to political attacks at various times like previous presidents of the University, he never surrendered to political pressure of any kind and his plan for retirement from the presidency in his sixty-fifth year was presented and acted upon by the Board of Regents in an atmosphere of complete harmony.

President Bizzell's resignation, which came unexpectedly at the meeting of the Board of Regents May 13 and 14, gives the board more than a year in which to make a choice for the next president of the University. Lloyd Noble, '22ex, president of the board, promised that the regents would take plenty of time to survey the entire field of possibilities before making a choice.

The letter of resignation submitted by President Bizzell to the president and members of the Board of Regents read as follows:

I am completing thirty years as a college president and fifteen years as president of the University of Oklahoma.

I will be in my sixty-fifth year in 1941 and I have always contemplated that I would retire from the arduous duties of executive administration at that age.

I am, therefore, submitting my resignation as president of the University, effective on and after July 1, 1941. I am giving you this notice a year in advance in order that the Board of Regents may have ample time to select my successor.

I have enjoyed my work as president of the University and I have been happy in my relationship with the alumni, faculty and the students of the institution. I have made thousands of friends through the years and it is my intention to live the remainder of my life in the midst of associations that have meant so much to me.

I wish to express to members of the board my genuine appreciation for the co-operation you have always given me and to assure you that I will continue to give the best service in my power for the remainder of my tenure as president of the institution.

In addition to serving as head of the sociology department after his retirement, Dr. Bizzell will be in charge of the Semi-Centennial Celebration of the University during 1941-42. The regents in the May meeting separated the sociology and anthropology departments, which previously had been combined under one head, and appointed Wyatt Marrs, professor of sociology, as acting head of the sociology de-

partment until Dr. Bizzell takes the position in 1941.

Sociology is a field in which Dr. Bizzell has done special study, and he has a personal interest in developing this particular phase of the University's program.

Dr. Bizzell has served as president of the University since 1925, a fifteen-year period during which the institution has made great progress and has continued to advance in spite of critical financial and political problems. He has been criticized at times, even by some alumni of the University, for refusal to deal with politicians "on their own ground," but he has consistently held the respect and admiration of the state for his unquestioned integrity and his reputation as "a scholar and a gentleman."

TWO outstanding achievements that may be credited almost entirely to his personal influence were the building of the University's \$500,000 library building, and the establishment of the University Press which has brought national and international recognition to O. U. as a center of literature and scholarship.

In addition to the magnificent library, the University plant has been expanded under President Bizzell's administration by the addition of the Union, the Stadium, the Business Administration Building, and the Biological Sciences Building,

as well as numerous smaller improvements.

Not the least of his achievements has been to fight many battles for his faculty—defending the right of academic freedom, tenure for faculty members in the upper ranks instead of one-year appointments, struggling in every legislative session for more adequate salaries for faculty members, and, during the last year, performing miracles of university finance by avoiding salary cuts in the face of a 10 per cent emergency reduction in the budget.

The fact that the change in the presidency of the University is being made in complete harmony, and only upon Dr. Bizzell's voluntary retirement in his sixty-fifth year, is good news to alumni of the University who at various times in the last few years have been disturbed by newspaper rumors that Dr. Bizzell might be arbitrarily removed and a successor named at the same time.

The orderly way in which the change is now being effected is in keeping with the dignity of the institution, and improves the standing of the University of Oklahoma in the eyes of educators all over the country.

Following the announcement of President Bizzell's resignation, Hicks Epton, '32law, president of the University of

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A Message from President Bizzell

To the Alumni of the University:

In resigning as president of the University, effective July 1, 1941, I wish to express appreciation to the alumni for the constant support and encouragement given me during the last fifteen years. There have been several occasions when it would have been most difficult to carry on without the quiet but most effective backing of the organized alumni.

It is a matter of satisfaction to report to the alumni that my proposal for retirement in my sixty-fifth year, in accordance with personal plans made years ago, has been accepted by the Board of Regents in a spirit of complete harmony and co-operation. It is also gratifying that the Board of Regents asked me to remain as a member of the University staff after my retirement as president. I am sure the alumni will be glad to know that the change in the presidency at my retirement age is being arranged in a spirit of complete harmony.



His recommendation was a "well-conceived program of public relations," to let the taxpayers know what they're getting for their money.

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Bizzell President Emeritus After 1941

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Oklahoma Association issued the following statement:

This is a happy example of what can be done in education in this State when politics is forgotten and governing bodies work harmoniously with the heads of educational institutions. The alumni appreciate the attitude of the Board of Regents and of Governor Phillips. All along, the governor has said that he was taking no hand in the internal affairs of the University. Those of us who were closest to the situation knew this to be true, and this action will no doubt convince many other persons who were not so sure.

Dr. Bizzell has served this state long and satisfactorily. It is gratifying to the alumni to know that this State and the University of Oklahoma are not going to lose his counsel, scholarship and personal association.

The alumni believe it was wise on the part of the Regents to postpone the selection of a successor to Dr. Bizzell so that they can look over the entire educational field. There is not and never has been any disposition on the part of the Alumni Association to tell the Board of Regents what to do in any particular, and the alumni certainly feel that this Board of Regents is fully qualified to select a successor to Dr. Bizzell when they feel the time is appropriate so to do.

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Association Progress

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on the Atoka County Advisory Council, has resigned because of moving to Oklahoma City.

Rev. Oscar L. Fontaine, '25, has left the Tillman County Advisory Council because of moving to Custer City.

William B. Cram, '30, former council chairman at St. Louis, Missouri, has been appointed chairman at Des Moines, Iowa.

At New Haven, Connecticut, council appointments have been made as follows: Margorie Harriet Hays, '25; Merwin M. Elwell, '35fa; R. G. Gill, '37; T. Z. Wright, '29bus, '34law.

Dr. Victor D. Mills, '38med, formerly on the Portland, Oregon, council, has resigned because of moving to Chicago, Illinois.

E. H. Skinner, '23, is the new chairman of the Kansas City, Missouri, Council, succeeding Albert Drake.

A council has been organized at Santa Fe, New Mexico, with Mrs. Arteola Bilbrey Daniel, '29fa, as chairman. The members are Raymond Sroaf, '25, '29law; Mrs. Lucille Heckman Love, '33ed, Eva Thomas, '28, '32law, and Mrs. Lois Martin Kimmell, '31ex. Sooner alumni in the Santa Fe vicinity planned a Spanish dinner party in May, and issued a general invitation for Sooners visiting the Coronado Celebrations this summer to call on members of the council in Santa Fe.

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