

# SOONER MAGAZINE

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President Joseph A. Brandt, photographed in his office as he began his new duties last month. The pipe and typewriter are real working tools with him—not just a pose for pictorial purposes.

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## The Right Direction

NO one can predict with any authority what the new State Board of Regents for Higher Education is going to do to the Oklahoma institutions of higher education when it actually begins its function of co-ordination and standardization. It can be said, however, that the board has started its work in a manner that should be reassuring to friends of higher education.

The appointment of John Oliver as administrative officer for the board has caused some speculation among University of Oklahoma alumni because of the fact that Mr. Oliver attended Oklahoma A. and M. College and worked for a time in Stillwater. Some of these alumni have expressed opinion that an outside man should have been secured, who had never had any connections in Oklahoma.

This criticism might be valid if the man selected were a political partisan more interested in making personal contacts than in making a serious study of educational problems. The fact is that those who know Mr. Oliver best—including some loyal alumni of the University of Oklahoma—state that they have the fullest confidence in his impartiality and his scientific attitude in attacking the problems of co-ordinating higher education in Oklahoma.

Mr. Oliver was chosen by the State Board of Regents for this highly responsible position because he was believed to be the

only available person who had made a serious study of educational co-ordination, and because he is thoroughly familiar with the background of Oklahoma's problems, and because his record proves him to be a high type man who is interested in helping to work out a unified *state system* of higher education to replace the present miscellaneous assortment of independent and uncorrelated colleges.

The members of the State Board of Regents are to be commended for making a choice of administrator on the basis of qualifications alone.

It seems apparent that the board does not intend to make any drastic changes in the present college setup without careful study, or without giving every affected institution an opportunity to present its case in full. That's all that any institution can reasonably ask.

The board, through its administrator, is beginning the study of numerous vital problems, the solution of which will greatly improve the efficiency of Oklahoma's colleges. You'll be hearing much more about this later.

Meanwhile, there is every reason to believe that the State Board of Regents for Higher Education is moving in the right direction.

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