

*IT'S REALLY* stimulating to see what a big part the University is playing in the national defense program. If you've read the articles in this special Engineer Edition of *Sooner Magazine*, you realize by now that O. U. has great responsibilities in helping to make the nation strong for defense—and that O. U. is hard at work to meet those responsibilities. The work of the College of Engineering is especially important. As Dean W. H. Carson points out, modern warfare is largely mechanized, both in preparation and in actual combat. And when the war is over, it is likely to be followed by a bitter economic struggle which will be won by the nations with the best production facilities.

*APPRECIATION* is hereby extended for the fine work done by the magazine's New York and Washington correspondents in covering the New York and Washington dinners honoring President-Elect Brandt and President Bizzell. Dr. Lloyd Morrisett in New York, and Paul Walker, Malvina Stephenson, Lynden Mannen and Ted Evans in Washington rushed information and pictures to Norman so that the reports could be presented in this issue. We regret that deadline requirements made it possible to use only a few of the Washington dinner pictures.

*YOUR ALUMNI SECRETARY*, Ted Beard, was sadly disappointed at missing those two swell Sooner parties. He had planned to take to the airways to make the two events, but unexpected developments on certain University problems that had to be faced immediately prevented his leaving Norman.

*IMPARTIAL TRIBUTE* to the success of the Washington dinner came from an unexpected source—the sound equipment man who was an entire stranger to the Oklahoma group. This neutral observer told Chairman Walker that the program, including talks by President Bizzell, Joe Brandt and Josh Lee and others was “worth five dollars.”

*AMONG THOSE* hard hit by the national defense program is Mrs. Mary Turnbull, secretary of the Alumni Records and Placement Bureau at the University. One of her numerous jobs is trying to keep the addresses of alumni up to date. Since good citizens have started leaving for army duty on short notice, it's harder than ever to keep up with some of them. Since the University R. O. T. C. unit was established, O. U. has turned out about 1,700 reserve officers. A great many of these are now being called up for active duty.

Many others are being inducted into the army through the selective service. Mrs. Turnbull would be a lot happier, and the records much improved, if each alumnus would drop a postcard to the Alumni Office each time he changes address.

*WE LIKE* the story John Hervey used in his letter promoting attendance for the dinner honoring Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brandt at New York. The story was about a small boy who was selling postcards in the crowd at a sports event. A kindly man bought a card and inquired what it was all about. “I'm selling cards to raise a million dollars to help the orphans in China,” the youngster explained. The man smiled indulgently. “And do you expect to do that all by yourself?” “No,” the boy replied confidently, “there's another boy helping me.”

*OLSON ANDERSON*, '25ba, of Bay City, Michigan, writes the Alumni Office to tell Author Ted Beard that he thinks “Riding the Range” is a swell feature. “Being somewhat of a traveling man myself,” writes Alumnus Anderson, “I wonder how you do it—one week in Washington, D. C., the next in Texas, then to California, maybe. And all the time you seem to be doing your job well, shaking hands with Sooners all along the way.” Mr. Anderson then invites the alumni secretary to visit Michigan—“that little known wilderness of the North Country lying for the most part north and west of Deetroit.” “Sooners aren't so plentiful up here,” he adds, “but what we lack in quantity we make up in winter sports and the like.” A former room-mate of the president-elect of the University, Mr. Anderson expresses confidence that Joe Brandt will do great things for the University.

*A MAN* whose mail has a hard time catching up with him is O. M. Woodward, Jr., '38eng. He left Trinidad in November, 1939, and spent the next year and a half in Colombia and Venezuela. Recently he returned to Oklahoma City. He's kind enough to say some complimentary words about the magazine even though it generally reaches him late because of his frequent changes of address.

*O. U. ALUMNI* are getting thicker and thicker “in this part of the country,” writes Glenn B. Hess, '36bs, '37ms, from New Brunswick, New Jersey, where he is now located as an employe in the E. R. Squibb & Co. plant. “In the past few weeks,” he writes, “I have seen Lt. Arlo Scoggin, '40ms, C. C. Sperling, '36ms, who now has a daughter fifteen months old, and Dr.

Joseph C. Sturgell, '38med, of the public health service, Danbury, Connecticut, and Mrs. Sturgell (Carol McKnight, '35fa). There are also several other alumni at the Raritan Arsenal with Lieutenant Scoggin.”

*FROM DALLAS* comes a card from Vic France, '40journ, who tells of receiving word from Bob Moore, former Sooner student who has been flying with the Royal Air Force in England and was one of the original “Eagle Squadron” which the Britishers think is “tops.” Moore was in the University 1937-39, and was intramural lighthavy boxing champion for two years. His card to France told of spending a four-day leave in “what's left of London,” and said that the blitz was about to begin for the night.

*THE ALUMNI COLLEGE* plan as proposed by President W. B. Bizzell has brought a number of favorable comments from alumni. Most of them express concern over the financing of such a plan, however. They have heard of the difficulty that the University has in financing its present program. General sentiment appears to be that facilities for an Alumni College would have to be provided by private gifts. This is in accord with President Bizzell's proposal, as he did not contemplate seeking any state funds for the project. The general idea of some kind of continuing educational program for alumni was universally approved by those who wrote comments to the Alumni Office.

*ASSISTING IN* the mechanics of building a national defense is not the most important obligation of America's universities in the present crisis, says President Robert M. Hutchins of the University of Chicago. “Moral and intellectual strength is much more important to the United States than military strength,” he states, although conceding the necessity of military preparedness. “With our vast resources and impregnable position we are unlikely to be swallowed up even by a combination of three powerful enemies if we understand and believe and have the courage to defend freedom, truth, and justice, the central principles of democracy. This is the vital force of the nation.” President Hutchins sees devotion to the ideals for which the university stands as the surest protection against the advance of the totalitarian states or the transformation of this country into one.

*IN OTHER* words, let's not only get ready to fight if necessary, but also keep clearly in mind just exactly what we are willing to fight for.