

# SOONER MAGAZINE

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ROSCOE CATE, '26, Editor-Manager

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When Josh Lee (center in the cover picture) was head of the speech department at O. U., two of his students were Royce Savage (left) and A. P. Murrah (right). Now Mr. Lee is United States senator from Oklahoma, Mr. Savage is United States district judge and Mr. Murrah is justice of the Circuit Court of Appeals. The three are pictured at the entrance of the Administration Building on the campus.

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## Playing for High Stakes

OKLAHOMA IS at the turning point in its program of higher education. Governor Phillips' co-ordinating board (which found itself to be only an advisory group because of lack of legal power) has made a painstaking survey of the situation in Oklahoma and the experience of numerous other states in their attempts to co-ordinate the work of state colleges and universities. Now the board has made a comprehensive report that includes specific recommendations.

The heart of the recommended plan for co-ordinating the work of the eighteen state-supported institutions of higher education in Oklahoma is a proposed constitutional amendment that would place budgetary control of all the institutions in the hands of a single State Board of Regents.

A group of leaders in the Alumni Association, the University Dads Association and the University Mothers Association have studied the proposal carefully and have approved the general principle.

Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University, and John Rogers, member of the University Board of Regents and an alumnus of O. U., both of whom served on the co-ordinating board and know the whole background leading up to the recommended plan, have expressed belief that the plan is sound, and that friends of higher education in Oklahoma ought to support the proposed amendment. There has been some dis-

cussion—and doubtless will be more—about what the exact wording of the amendment should be. But there is general agreement that the principle is sound.

This conclusion is reached, not by considering the possible effect on the University alone, but by studying the matter from the viewpoint of the entire state system of higher education.

It is quite possible that the University would have to make some sacrifices along with other institutions if a realistic co-ordinating program is put into effect. Certainly the University would have to surrender some of its independence and its freedom of action that it enjoys now.

President Bizzell describes the situation simply and effectively. "We are playing for high stakes." The success of the proposed state system of higher education will depend chiefly upon the ability and vision of the men chosen to serve on the State Board of Regents and in the key position of chancellor of the state system.

The stakes are a vastly improved system of higher education in Oklahoma. And whatever is good for higher education in Oklahoma, is good for the University in the long run.

The Alumni Association favors adoption of the amendment, providing only that the amendment is worded properly to carry out the objectives outlined in the co-ordinating board's recommendations.