SOONER MAGAZINE

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The Cover

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Two Sooner alumni who hold positions of unusual importance meet at the entrance of the Administration Building. They are Lloyd Noble, '21, president of the Board of Regents (left), and Governor Leon C. Phillips, '16law, first O. U. alumnus to become governor of Oklahoma.

Articles

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Protecting the University's Good Name

IN RECENT MONTHS, as public sentiment has become more and more concerned over the nation's safety in a chaotic world, there has been a noticeable increase in the talk around the state about alleged communistic influences at the University of Oklahoma.

One newspaper published an editorial that contained this statement: "There is no need to disguise the fact that there have been some professors and some courses at the University that have tinged too much with praise and tolerance of communism."

That is a strong statement. If it is true, drastic action is called for. If it isn't true, then the University's good name has been seriously libeled.

Another newspaper, discussing a group of faculty members who helped sponsor a "state conference on constitutional rights," stated editorially: "Undoubtedly these doctors, deans, professors, and secretaries who are using the name of the University of Oklahoma 'for identification only,' have a right to engage in such activities as this, but on the other hand the Board of Regents of the University certainly has the right to purge the University of their presence and their services."

The *Tulsa World*, taking a calm view of the situation, nevertheless stated "The fact remains that there has been so much noise about teaching conditions in the University that

there should be a straightforward investigation." The *World* added that this need not take the form of a crusade, and should be approached in a business-like manner.

The Norman Transcript comments that the charges of communism are repeated so frequently that a lot of people are beginning to assume that there must be something to them, "and we frequently hear individuals over the state express the opinion that the faculty here includes individuals who are quite 'pink' if not actually 'red' in their beliefs and attitudes."

"If the members of the board of regents have looked into them (the charges) in the past and know there is nothing to them, we believe the public would welcome a statement clearing up the matter," the *Transcript* stated. "If the members do not know whether such charges have any foundation, a general inquiry would be advisable, to be followed by a public statement of the findings."

Those who know personally the various men whose liberal activities have probably inspired most of the talk and gossip, say that accusations of communistic or even "pink" leanings are absurd. However, these denials coming from individuals without official standing do not seem to carry much weight with the public. The question arises, has the time come when the University must take some kind of formal action to protect its good name?

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