

SOONER MAGAZINE

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Danger Ahead

Lowering of the draft age to 18 raises many problems for higher education in America. University President Joseph A. Brandt calls it the most critical situation the colleges and universities have faced since the Civil War.

It means that few boys graduating from high school will think it worth while to try to go to college; that many who do try will possibly get to attend only one year.

The problem is not immediate, as the 18 and 19-year-old boys now in school are not to be called until the end of the present school year, according to terms of the bill pending in Congress when this was written.

But next fall, unless some provision is made to select certain high school graduates to be permitted to go to college, the nation's vital supply of new doctors and scientists and engineers and other professional men will be dried up at the source.

Admittedly the process of selecting certain young men to go to college—one of democracy's greatest privileges—while forcing others to go into military service and perhaps sacrifice their lives, will be about the most difficult job ever attempted. But it is one that is going to have to be done to protect the best interests of the nation.

Jobs Plentiful

Alumni can do a good piece of work by combatting the natural inertia of high school graduates who anticipate being drafted and don't think it is worth while to go to college for only one or two semesters.

As a matter of fact, one or two semesters of work at the University—particularly work in science courses or mathematics—might make a whole lot of difference in a boy's usefulness to the armed forces and might actually mean the difference between being recommended for officer candidate school or remaining a private.

Jobs are so plentiful in Norman now—thanks to a combination of factors—that almost any student who is interested enough can earn his room and board while going to school. The boy who doesn't make the effort to go to college upon graduating from high school is cheating himself.

All-Year Plan

If the legislature appropriates the money—and there is every reason why it should—the University will go on an all-year basis with three 16-week semesters scheduled every year. This will make it possible for a student to complete work for a standard degree in two years and eight months if he doesn't take any time out for vacation or to work full time.

It's a war measure, but the experience of other states is that the plan is so practical that it will probably become permanent. It keeps the expensive University plant in use the year around.

Union Critics

Every year or two, some self-appointed critic issues a public blast at the management of the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building. Sometimes it is a student; sometimes not. The charges brought are usually vague, sweeping and of an insinuating nature.

Fortunately, the public and the student body appear to have more confidence in the public-spirited men making up the membership of the Union Board of Governors and the Union's Board of Managers than they do in the vague criticisms of persons who have not bothered with trying to get the facts about Union operations—facts which are always available to any interested person.

The Cover

Mary Frank Helms, '41, former journalism student, joined the WAACS last summer and recently received her second lieutenant's commission after completing officer candidate training.

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