



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ENTRANCE
.... gateway to learning in Oklahoma's past and future.

The Next 50 Years

By PRESIDENT JOSEPH A. BRANDT

THE kind of Oklahoma we will have in the next fifty years is being determined now by the kind of education we are giving our future leaders. Education has been the keystone on which American democracy has been preserved and the incidence of war only makes the obligation of educators all the greater.

Oklahoma is the third youngest state in the Union. Sometimes we are apt to forget this important fact, in the face of the marvellous material development we have experienced. Due to our youth, we have not had the maturing influence of third and fourth generations and in great part, the many libels on Oklahoma are traceable to the absence of rooted peoples.

Now, however, we are beginning to find the third generation assuming a position of leadership. Native Oklahomans whose first love is Oklahoma, are beginning to make their contributions to our state for the sake of the state.

This is the hopeful side of the ledger. The University of Oklahoma can take justifiable pride in its contribution over fifty years of forward-looking leaders it has trained. Naturally, during the next fifty years, the training of people of vision who can help realize the dreams the pioneers had of Oklahoma, must remain a first charge on the University. But also, the University must assume the leadership in helping our statesmen and civic

leaders place the economy of the state on a sound basis. We cannot hope to remain a great state on an economy founded on mining, for the products of mining are shipped out of the state and are subject to eventual exhaustion. Nor can we depend alone on agricultural wealth, for a great part of our area consists of soil which is unsuited for dry farming. The principal hope of the future must be a balanced economy, in which agriculture will remain very important but will be aided by a sound industrial development.

Research is the heart which pumps the blood of life into industry. The greatest contribution our University will make to Oklahoma during the next fifty years will be in helping create an industrial society. Just as the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College has helped agriculture, so will the University help industry. The engineer and the scientist working in his laboratory on the campus on problems that to a layman might seem most abstract, will in reality be laying the foundation through his discoveries for the employment of thousands of persons in the future. Even with the great handicap of practically no space for research, the University of Oklahoma Research Institute has in its brief year of existence already begun the exploration of a dozen major problems, and from some of these may come the beginnings of new industrial development. In many ways, the Institute is the most important single institution during these critical years, in Oklahoma.

The decentralization of industry as a result of the war gives Oklahoma a marvellous opportunity to start even with many older states but we must also be alert to the need for providing for the conversion of war plants to peace plants. This is the key and this is where our College of Engineering if Oklahoma industry will use it, can aid vitally. The possibilities are limitless and fascinating. They require imagination and leadership and I hope our University can do its share in the task ahead.

In the purely educational field, I hope the University will be able to demonstrate continued leadership. There is no greater task in life than to help young people get the right start. Nor is there any reason at all why our University cannot give the youth of Oklahoma the best in education. I must confess that I cannot understand the few who are afraid of quality in education; if we are going to spend the money of the taxpayers in training youth, ought we not spend it in such fashion as to give the utmost in return?

The University will continue to march forward, as it has in the past, with the welfare of the state as its first consideration. During the war, the University must give its every nerve to the war effort. Yet, in doing so, we must not forget that on universities will devolve many of the problems of peace.