

# Alumni in the News

SENATOR JOSH LEE, '17ba, last month was nominated by President Roosevelt as a member of the National Civil Aeronautics Board which exercises sweeping regulatory powers over the air industry of America and also supervises civilian pilot training schools in the nation.

Since his defeat for re-election in November by E. H. Moore of Tulsa, Mr. Lee's name figured prominently among possible appointees to several top-flight federal posts. He was reported to have most desired the place on the five-man Civil Aeronautics Board, however.

Early last year Mr. Lee was a strong advocate in the Senate of the wide-scale air transport plan and later came out in favor of one powerful commander for United Nations air forces.

## 19th Legislature

Democratic members of the Legislature, meeting in caucus last month, completed harmonious organization of both houses for the nineteenth session of the State Legislature scheduled to open January 5.

Both houses appeared solidly behind Robert S. Kerr, '16, incoming governor. Senate leaders elected include Jim A. Rinehart, '23law, El Reno, floor leader of the last session, chosen as floor leader, and Bill Logan, '41-'42, Lawton, secretary of the caucus.

House leaders chosen by the Democrats included Harold Freeman, '20-'25, Garvin County, speaker; Kirksey M. Nix, '34-'41, McIntosh County, majority floor leader; Merle Lansden, '39law, Beaver County, assistant floor leader.

Pledges for the nineteenth session included economy in state government and sensible administration of state affairs in wartime. In a brief talk following his election as speaker of the house, Mr. Freeman called on legislators to make the nineteenth session "the most honorable and the most constructive that Oklahoma has ever had."

James C. Nance, Purcell, senator from the Cleveland-McClain County district, was reported in a position of power and was selected as head of the important Senate committee on committees. In addition he is slated to be chairman of the Senate committee on revenue and taxation, a position he held in the last legislative session.

## Senator in Service Resigns

Capt. Joe B. Thompson, '27ba, holdover state senator from Ardmore, has resigned from that position. He is now on duty with the Army Air Force. A special election to name his successor was scheduled after technicalities surrounding the case were straightened out by Mac Q. Williamson, '10, attorney general. Since Captain Thompson was elected two years ago, Oklahoma



JIM A. RINEHART, '23LAW

senatorial district lines have been redrawn. The special election was pending decision as to whether the new senator would be elected from the old district composed of Carter, Murray and Love Counties, which elected Thompson, or the new district made up of Carter County alone.

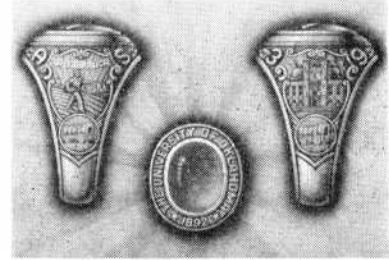
## Court to Decide in Riley Case

Complications increased last month in the case of Lt. Fletcher Riley, '17ba, state Supreme Court justice from the ninth district, who went into service shortly before his re-election in November.

Lieutenant Riley, who held a commission as a retired officer, proposed to continue drawing his salary of \$7,500 a year as justice of the court and not draw the first lieutenant's pay. Frank C. Carter, state auditor, refused to pay salary claim for Riley and his office force for November, insisting the office was vacated.

Shortly thereafter Lieutenant Riley brought a writ of mandamus to compel payment. Governor Phillips appointed a special Supreme Court to hear the case and organization of the court was under way in mid-December. The regular justices, Lieutenant Riley's associates, disqualified.

Meanwhile Governor Phillips appointed Oris L. Barney, '25, Anadarko, to succeed Riley. Then to add to the confusion, the lieutenant returned from Army duties and told newspapermen, "I am back to take care of interests. I am performing my duties as justice and I am going to stay here." He didn't say whether his services with the Army were completed.



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