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# Alumni in the News

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ROBERT S. KERR, '16, was sworn in as Oklahoma's twelfth governor in simple inaugural ceremonies held January 11 on the steps of the state's domeless capitol building.

In his first address before the 19th Oklahoma Legislature which convened January 5, Governor Kerr outlined seven proposals for action at this session. Included in the seven-point program were the following: 1) Place clemency powers in the hands of a non-partisan board, 2) Retire state bonds held by the School Land Commission with surplus in the treasury, 3) Restore the State Department of Education to usefulness, 4) Provide free textbook system for first eight grades, 5) Provide preferential primary and shorten state ballot, 6) Slash Public Welfare Department funds in half and transfer its administration to State Board of Affairs, and 7) Establish State Guard to fulfill former duties of National Guard.

At the end of the first three weeks of the nineteenth session, Governor Kerr had made considerable progress with his program for passing several constitutional amendments for submission to a vote in the next state election.

Some legislative opposition greeted proposed constitutional amendments 1) to make the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents a constitutional board and 2) to institute the preferential primary election system in Oklahoma. Other proposed amendments to the state constitution included 3) proposal to transfer clemency powers from the governor to a five-member non-partisan board, 4) to allow women to hold major state offices if the amendment voted last November is not held to have been adopted, 5) to revise and clarify the co-ordinating amendment voted in 1941 to restore power over appropriations for educational institutions to the legislature, 6) to create a nine-member board of control for agricultural colleges, 7) to establish a graduated land tax for cultivated lands only, on an equitable basis according to the type of land, and 8) to check the killing power of the silent vote on initiated and referred measures.

## Senate Leaders

Three alumni members of the State Senate were included among eight men who, because of senate committee assignments, were largely in control of legislative matters in the Senate.

James A. Rinehart, '23law, administration floor leader from El Reno, was assigned as vice chairman of the senate and legislative affairs committee; chairman of the senate rules committee; and a member of the committee on retrenchment and re-

form and the revenue and taxation committee.

Guy Curry, '24-'25, Stigler, held membership on the committee on retrenchment and reform, revenue and taxation committees and the appropriations committee. Mr. Curry's principal appointment was as chairman of the senate investigating committee.

Charles Duffy, '22law, Ponca City, heads the senate appropriations committee.

## Mrs. Calvert Appointed

Among first Kerr appointments confirmed was Mrs. George E. Calvert (Maude Richman, '20ms) as a member of the State Board of Affairs. A leader for many years in Oklahoma civic organizations, Mrs. Calvert has concentrated her attention chiefly on the Parent-Teacher Association and child welfare groups.

In 1935 Mrs. Calvert received the *Daily Oklahoman* award as Oklahoma City's most useful citizen. Her activities in good citizenship require 61 lines in *Who's Who*.

## Phillips Term 'Good'

Summarizing former Governor Leon C. Phillip's four-year term in the statehouse, political reporter Otis Sullivant, '24, last month commented that his administration "will go down in Oklahoma history as a good one."

Mr. Sullivant in his review listed the highlights of the Phillips' term—domination of the State Legislature, shearing of state expenses, his fight against drinking among state employees, numerous political battles and his eventual stand against the New Deal.

Of the former governor's political future the newspaperman wrote, "His program has been popular with business and all conservative groups which wanted sound administration in state government. If and when business and private initiative resurge after the war, Phillips might well be a standard bearer."

Phillips said little about his plans except that he could be reached at his Pitchfork ranch near Weleetka or at his law offices in Oklahoma City.

## Riley Continues as Justice

Confusion about the status of Fletcher Riley, '17ba, State Supreme Court justice called to active duty last fall, apparently was cleared up after the judge was sworn in to serve another six-year term in January.

In addition, a special Supreme Court of nine members, appointed to decide whether Judge Riley's entrance into armed service was equivalent to resigning from the

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bench, failed to convene when it was scheduled to do so.

The justice, a lieutenant in the Army, returned to Oklahoma from his post of duty in December after a successor had been announced and Auditor Frank Carter had refused to pay his and his employees salary claims because he considered Riley no longer a member of the court.

Judge Riley told reporters he was back to fulfill his duties as a Supreme Court member but he did not elaborate on whether his military service was at an end.

## Lee Appointment Confirmed

Senate members confirmed Josh Lee's appointment to the five-member Civil Aeronautics Board last month despite opposition by his successor Republican E. H. Moore of Tulsa.

Senator Moore urged his colleagues to oppose Mr. Lee's confirmation on the ground that he "is totally lacking in qualifications" for the job. Among other uncomplimentary statements, Senator Moore averred the aviation industry, if free to express an opinion, would not favor Mr. Lee, that he was afraid of airplanes.

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WHITTET-SMITH: Miss Mary Helen Whittet, '42, McAlester, and Lt. Weldon Smith, '41, Mangum, were married at Norman in December. Mrs. Smith was a sophomore in the University at the time of her marriage. Lieutenant Smith was stationed at Fort Sill.

WARREN-KINNEY: Miss Lucille Warren, '43bus, Elk City, and Clifford E. Kinney, Woodward, were married December 22 at Elk City. Mr. Kinney, a graduate of Oklahoma A. and M. College at Stillwater, is taking a civilian pilot training course there. He was formerly vocational agricultural director in the Elk City schools.

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## CAMPUS CALENDAR

February 13—Sooner-Kansas State basketball game at Manhattan.

February 15—Sooner-Missouri basketball game at Columbia.

February 17—University Symphony Orchestra concert, 8 p. m., University Auditorium.

February 19—Sooner-Olathe (Kansas) Pre-Flight Clipper basketball game at Norman.

February 24—Dance concert by Janey Price, 8 p. m., University Auditorium.

February 26—Sooner-Kansas basketball game at Lawrence.

February 26—Lecture-recital by Marion Keighley Snowden, "The Dances of Shakespeare's Day," 8 p. m., University Auditorium.

March 1—Sooner-Nebraska basketball game at Norman.

March 3—Artists Series lecture by Maj. Alexander P. de Seversky, "Victory through Air Power," University Auditorium.

March 4—Sooner-Aggie basketball game at Norman.

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