

# Oklahoma Books

FEDERATION: The Coming Structure of World Government, Eaton et al., University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1944. (pp.234), \$3.00

This symposium by sixteen scholars and political figures<sup>1</sup> makes a welcome addition to the growing literature of federation. The proposals set forth are not new, but in some cases the authors have succeeded in elaborating on several of the salient factors to a degree which has not hitherto been achieved.

The authors propose a world legislature of two houses, both of which are based upon population, but with restrictions as to the maximum number of members allowed to any one state. In the lower house the limitation is fifteen per cent of the total; in the upper it is three members. The powers of this legislative body are fundamentally the same as those of the American Congress. In fact, the entire Constitution bears a very close resemblance to the United States Constitution except as regards the executive branch which is on the British model.

The Executive branch exercises about the same powers as those now enjoyed by the British and American executives, subject, of course, to resignation if the legislative body passes a vote of "no confidence." Rather remarkably the provision is made that the minister of finance and the minister of state shall be elected by the legislature in the same manner as the Premier is chosen. This has the undesirable effect of placing them in a position of independence to the Premier. Provision is also made that no two of these officers may be from the same state.

The Judiciary is based almost entirely upon the American model, not only in respect to organization but powers as well. Fortunately the authors have not attempted to grant the World Court the power of judicial review. Such a provision would certainly have aroused the opposition of all other possible members of the federation.

The American Bill of Rights is reproduced almost completely with the exception that a guarantee of private property is not included. This is a necessity as the rapid growth of Socialism within the boundaries of other possible member states makes such a provision untenable. It is provided, however, that if the member states wish to grant further rights to their citizens they may do so. The inclusion of a Bill of Rights means that Russia is not to be included among the original members of the federation. Any time they are willing to extend these rights to their citizens they may enter.

<sup>1</sup> Oliver Benson, Louis Dolivet, Norman L. Hill, Pittman B. Potter, Paul G. Steinbecker, G. Merle Bergman, Cortez A. M. Ewing, Oscar Jazzi, J. Fred Rippey, Henry A. Wallace, Howard O. Eaton, Royden J. Dangerfield, Carl J. Friedrich, William P. Maddox, T. V. Soong and Wendell Willkie.



PLAN FOR WORLD ORDER  
*Government professor Cortez Ewing (seated) and Savoie Lottinville, director of the University Press, inspect one of the first copies of Federation.*

All power is concentrated within the hands of the federal government as a means of maintaining the security and unity of the federation. This would prevent wars among the member states and would probably result in a concentration of such power within the federation as to make it unchallengeable by any combination of external powers.

It is the intention of the authors that all states may eventually obtain membership when they meet the requirements. This even extends to the Axis nations. It is not expected, nor even desired, that there will be a great membership to begin with, but states are expected to come in more rapidly after the success of such an experiment has been shown.

The necessity of such a system to provide for and maintain the peace of the world is brought out more capably by the authors than in any previous work on the subject.—B. E. Carter, '43ba.

## Religious Journal

The Oklahoma School of Religion has begun publication of a monthly *Oklahoma Journal of Religion*, edited by Dean Nick Comfort. An editorial by Dean Comfort in the first issue, which came out in January, stated that the purpose of the *Journal* is "to disseminate information, good will, co-operation and determination among Oklahomans."

As announced by Dean Comfort the *Journal* will include each month an editorial page, a feature article about religion by an associate editor or a contributor, news of religious life at the University, and news of Oklahoma church activity.

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