
Alumni in the News

Gov. ROBERT S. KERR, '16, is a member of a National Conference of Governors sub-committee formed to prepare and present to President Truman recommendations that employment services be transferred from the federal government to the various states.

Governor Kerr was one of seven governors who conferred with President Truman at the White House last month following Japan's surrender. A dispatch from the Oklahoman-Times Washington bureau stated that Governor Kerr said problems of unemployment and reconversion were the main topics of discussion with the President.

In July Governor Kerr presided over the Southern Governors' Conference held at Mobile, Alabama, which he called. Representatives of 13 southern states discussed ways of implementing the Interstate Commerce Commission order for equitable freight rates and passed resolutions charting future action.

Attending the meetings were governors of Mississippi, South Carolina, Florida, North Carolina, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana and Alabama, and representatives other than the governor from Tennessee, Georgia, Texas and Virginia.

The I.C.C. ruling ordered uniform freight rates for the nation, which would ultimately mean increasing rates in the East from 100 to 116 percent and decreasing them in the Southeast and Southwest from 116 to 156 percent, according to some observers. Several northern states and businesses have asked the I.C.C. to reconsider the ruling. It is expected that the controversy will continue for years. Governor Kerr stated that the South, the Southwest and the West can be most effective through joint action.

A rate committee, headed by Governor Sparks of Alabama and composed of Governor Caldwell of Florida, Governor Davis of Louisiana, Governor Cherry of North Carolina and Governor Kerr, submitted two resolutions to the conference, which were adopted. One resolution contained three declarations, applauding the actions of the Interstate Commerce Commission in recognizing the need for establishing parity in freight rates, recognizing that the responsibility rested upon southern, southwestern and western leaders to put the order into effect as soon as possible, and urging that any other group similarly interested in the implementation of the ruling join in the unified effort.

The other resolution gave the rate committee the power to retain legal counsel and set up financial arrangements. J. V. Norman, Louisville, Kentucky, was retained as counsel, with former Governor Prentice Cooper of Tennessee as an associate.

Governor Kerr spoke on the freight rate situation when the governors were guests of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce one day of the conference. Said Governor Kerr: "We are fighting for a common cause. We have a common objective for all the people, and it is not only for the South but for the nation. In your hand you hold the greatest opportunity of any people on earth. You have transportation facilities on land, on the seas and in the air. Never before have there been available to people such marvels of transportation.

"The South needs industrial structure to balance its industry. We have abundant resources. We have factory workers developed in the caldron of war. The South has the capital. No longer do we have to go elsewhere. Today in the South and West we have adequate capital for development of industry and the resources and the trained workers.

"It is in order to develop opportunity that we work together. What is in your hand? Today

we have the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission that decreed equalization of freight rates as soon as it is mechanically possible. It is like bringing ample water to rich but arid soil and the South and the West have a great opportunity. It is like lifting the shackles from the shoulders, the burden from the back. We do not seek the industry of other sections. We seek our own industrial development, with our resources, our soil, our people, and equality of opportunity. It has come through unified effort. It will remain through unified effort."

Earlier in the summer Governor Kerr attended the national conference of governors at Mackinac Island, Michigan.

Brandt Takes New York Job

Joseph A. Brandt, '21ba, former president of the University, has been named president of Henry Holt and Company, a New York publishing firm. His appointment as head of one of the oldest and highest ranking commercial publishing houses in the country highlights an outstanding career as a book publisher and educator.

Since leaving the University, which he served as seventh president, on January 1, 1944, Mr. Brandt has been director of the University of Chicago Press. His association with the publishing business began in 1928, when he established the University Press as a book publishing concern. Prior to that time it had existed only as a print shop. Also in 1928, Mr. Brandt became the first editor of *Sooner Magazine*, continuing in that position until 1933.

The University Press gained national prominence under Mr. Brandt's direction with the publication of such books as John Joseph Mathews' *Wah'Kon-Tah, Folk-Say*, by Ben Botkin, and *Deserts on the March*, by Paul B. Sears. During the ten years Mr. Brandt directed the University Press it published 85 books, most of them on Southwestern subjects.

In 1938, Mr. Brandt left Oklahoma to become director of the Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. On August 1, 1941, he returned to the University as its president, stating that while he was reluctant to change his career, he thought that "perhaps it is time for an alumnus to return interest on the state's educational investment." Mr. Brandt re-entered the publishing field last year with his acceptance of the post at the University of Chicago.

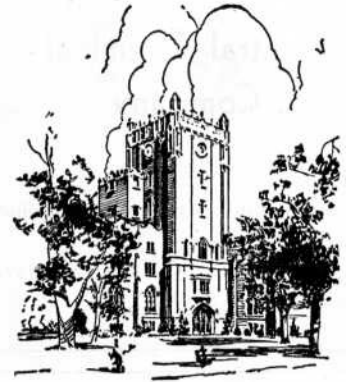
Before coming to the University in 1928, Mr. Brandt worked as a reporter and city editor on the *Sapulpa Herald*, the *Ponca City News* and the *Tulsa Tribune*.

Textbook Commission Appointed

A state textbook commission was appointed late in July by Governor Kerr to carry out the law passed by the last legislature ordering negotiations for extension of existing textbook contracts.

Members of the board are as follows: George L. Cross, president of the University, chairman; Max Chambers, '21ba, '29ms, superintendent of schools at Okmulgee; Merle Glasgow, '32m.ed, superintendent of schools at Bartlesville; Otis McClintock, president of the First National Bank in Tulsa; Doane Farr, Clinton, trucking and transportation company official; Wheeler Mayo, Sallisaw, newspaperman, and A. L. Crable, '27ma, state superintendent of public instruction, an ex officio member.

The last legislature passed a law authorizing extension of textbook adoptions under a staggered system. It provides that companies holding the contracts file notice with the textbook commission if they cannot agree to extensions. New textbooks will have to be adopted when existing contracts are not extended.



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