

The President Speaks

BY DR. GEORGE L. CROSS



Rhys Evans, state representative, outlines in detail the benefits to be derived if the 36 million dollar bond proposal is greeted favorably by the people.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Since President Cross had gone on a much deserved vacation trip just as this issue of the Sooner Magazine was to go to the printers, we had an idea. With the September 27th bond issue just around the corner, we asked Rhys Evans, '36ba, '39Law, member of the house of representatives, to present a detailed analysis of this proposal. Mr. Evans, who has studied this problem for months, kindly agreed to prepare this report. You'll find it most interesting.—T. M. B.)

BY RHYNS EVANS

The problem of the State of Oklahoma meeting its outstanding building needs was unsolved at the time of the convening of the Twenty-Second Legislature. The administration had hoped because of an increased revenue to solve a major portion of the problem by direct appropriation. Developments as the legislature proceeded indicated that again the problem would remain unsolved at the conclusion of that session. Even though the State of Oklahoma appropriated more money than ever before in its history for the biennium of 1949-1950 and 1950-1951 the problem of adequate buildings for immediate state needs remained.

This need has developed through a period of unusual financial history in the State of Oklahoma. The past twenty-year period has seen both extreme depression and wide prosperity. In depression times the building program was not even considered because of other pressing problems. In times of prosperity increased costs and salaries especially in the field of education found no funds available to realize the building program. Therefore the State of Oklahoma has for twenty years done practically nothing for its physical plant.

The question of whether or not the Twenty-Second Legislature solved this question will be decided on September 27, 1949, when the people of Oklahoma will vote on the question of issuing \$36,000,000.00 in bonds for the construction of needed state buildings. If the people vote favorably on this bond issue the responsibility of the State towards housing its educational facilities, mental patients, and other eleemosynary wards of the State will be solved for the next twenty years. If the people of Oklahoma reject the proposed bond issue the most immediate need of government in this State will continue again and again to confront coming legislatures with the insistence by the informed people of the State that the problem be solved.

Serious consideration to the manner of solving this problem has been given for many months. In the first biennial report of the Legislative Council the following report is found at page 42:

"At the last meeting of the committee a strong appeal for more adequate financing of the building needs of state educational and other institutions was presented. Briefly, this proposal was that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the people authorizing a state-wide tax levy

on all taxable property, including homesteads, of not to exceed five mills, limited to a period of ten years, with which to finance needed buildings at all state institutions. Over a ten year period, it is estimated that revenues from such a levy would approximate \$75 millions. This should be sufficient to meet the building needs of the state for the next 25 or 30 years. Such a construction program, if spread over a period of 12 or 15 years, would give the state the benefit of average building costs over the period. The committee feels that this proposal merits consideration by the Legislature and the people of Oklahoma:

In discussing this proposal the committee recognized that very little if any, new construction can be financed out of anticipated state revenues; that the need for a building program at the various colleges, hospitals and other state institutions is urgent; that present building costs are excessive and almost prohibitive; and that some special source of revenue must be tapped to finance such a building program, if and when it becomes feasible. Realizing that this proposal was beyond the committee's scope, the matter was referred to the Revenue and Taxation committee of the Council for further study."

There you see the council admitted that new construction cannot be financed out of anticipated revenue and that some special source of revenue must be tapped to finance the building program. The only question of doubt made by the council's

committee related to the high cost of building at this particular time.

The chief executive of the State of Oklahoma also fully recognized the need for buildings and it was through his insistence that this question be placed before the people as the Twenty-Second Legislature did not have the funds available for direct appropriation to meet the needs. A summary of emergency building requirements for this coming biennial has been prepared by the governor's office and it is shown in the two-column chart on this page.

You will note that emergency needs totaled \$11,381,212, much less than the \$36,000,000 to be approved by the people. Actual additional needs totaled \$18,234,949, thus clearly you can see why the governor has asked for the bond issues approval.

It is interesting to note that the budget requests for capital improvements submitted to the last legislature was \$22,300,000, and the legislature was able to allocate only \$4,158,500. Frankly therefore, the legislature was unable to solve the problem and the governor has asked that the people now permit the problem to be solved by this bond issue.

As a practical matter no true objection can be made to the bond issue. It is money needed to meet an immediate governmental responsibility. The wealth of the State is such, however, that only a small portion of one tax, the cigarette tax, will be necessary to retire this indebtedness. The cigarette tax and license fees in connection therewith produced in 1947-48, \$8,177,159.56, and in 1948-49

SUMMARY OF BUILDING NEEDS, FISCAL 1950 AND 1951 (Compiled for Governor Turner, April 18, 1949)

Institutions	Emergency Needs		Modernization	Additional Needs	
	Grand Total Needs	New Construction		New Construction	Modernization
Higher Education	\$15,638,700	\$1,666,200	\$3,075,000	\$8,333,800	\$2,563,700
Mental Hospitals	10,164,650	2,073,500	1,770,120	5,959,000	362,030
Other Institutions					
Tubercular Hospitals	701,276	358,500	128,910	154,366	59,500
Penal and Correctional	962,517	565,000	281,932	38,300	77,285
State Orphans Home	1,211,053	391,500	171,825	9,128	638,600
Deaf and Blind Schools	254,965	124,000	91,725	—	39,240
Other Hospitals	43,000	12,000	31,000	—	—
Total—Other Inst.	\$3,172,811	\$1,451,000	\$705,392	\$201,794	\$814,625
Capitol Buildings					
Public Safety Bldg.	—	440,000	—	—	—
Boilers for Capitol	—	—	200,000	—	—
Total Capitol Bldgs.	640,000	440,000	200,000	—	—
TOTAL	\$29,616,161	\$5,630,700	\$5,750,512	\$14,494,594	\$3,740,355
Total Emergency Needs	\$11,381,212		Total Additional Needs	\$18,234,949	



Alpha Tau Omega

Founded at O.U. In 1921

When you walk into the ATO house at the University, you will find something more than a fraternity house with its crest and the usual fraternity decorations; you will find something more than eighty-three college students living there. . . . What is it? It's something you can't explain easily; it's an intangible spirit of friendliness and brotherhood instilled in each man, it's something that he gets, lives and goes on living until the day his Maltese Cross lies silent above his chest in death.

But what is in this fraternity that makes it that important to each man who has worn the Cross? Let us introduce you to our fraternity, its solid foundation, and its success in the past and its promising future.

Alpha Tau Omega, the first Greek letter college fraternity organized after the Civil War was founded at Richmond, Virginia, on September 11, 1865, with its first chapter at the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Virginia.

It was founded by three young Confederate soldiers, whose prime object was to restore the Union, to unite fraternally the young men of the South with those of the North, and to foster a Christian brotherhood dedicated to the task of achieving and cherishing permanent peace. Their inspiration was based on this sentiment:

*No North, no South, no East, no West
But One Great Nation, Heaven Blest!*

This, as one of our principles began the magnificent structure that provides the foundation of our fraternity. Since that time, what have we done for our fraternity; and what has our fraternity done for us?

She has grown to one hundred and two chapters throughout the United States and has broadened her goal by reaching into Canada. The Maltest Cross proudly hangs above the entrances of ninety houses which adorn the outstanding campuses throughout the country.

Her Cross has been worn by 53,600 fully initiated members. Since the time, Delta Kappa, our chapter, was installed on April 2, 1921, 540 have been initiated in this chapter house. She in return has produced such men as: Bruce Drake, '29phys.ed, basketball coach; Dick Reich, '47bs, ace defensive star with Phillips 66; and Paul Courty, basketball All-American '49. ATOs known by all include the Rev. William Alexander, First Christian Church, Oklahoma City; Curt Gowdy, sportscaster; and the immortal Fred Waring. These are but a few who have worn the Cross.

Our traditional "Bowery Ball" has been celebrated by our alums all over the state returning to join the color and gaiety of the festivities. We have our Fall and Spring formals, and numerous house dances throughout the year.

ATO has consistently ranked at the top of the intramural calendar with its teams of football, basketball, softball, and track dominating the field.

produced \$8,449,317.55. This tax is frankly one of the more stable taxes that the State of Oklahoma imposes. It is recommended that 2 cents of this tax be used to retire this indebtedness. This would mean approximately \$3,500,000 per year would go to solve the greatest immediate need in Oklahoma State Government. No legitimate objections can be made to this method of financing except that it is a departure from our cash and carry type of government. However, this argument can not be sustained when it is agreed that the responsibility of government for its wards can not be shirked merely on the basis of having a debt free state. The effect of removing 2 cents of the cigarette tax from the General Revenue Fund would mean the reduction of the estimate on this tax by the same amount removed to apply to the bonds. In a practical manner this would mean that from the General Revenue there would be appropriated, assuming that there is no rise or decline in other taxes, \$3,500,000 less per year. Yet on the other hand, the budget requests the next legislature would continue to face, assuming this problem had not been solved, the same \$22,300,000 that was presented to the last

legislature for building. Simply it is the solution of a request of \$22,300,000 for a small portion thereof.

It is suggested by some that it would be better to finance all of these buildings at one session of the legislature, but this is impossible if we are to maintain common schools and our general functions of government.

Another objection is made on the basis of cost. Assuming that the \$36,000,000 is spent immediately it will cost the state interest estimated at \$9,000,000, yet one must realize that this \$9,000,000 of interest is over a twenty-five year period; which means this interest would be \$360,000 a year, and this figure does not compare with the exorbitant cost in repairs made in trying to maintain the poorly conditioned buildings we now have. Yes, interest will be paid, of course, but it will offset hundreds of thousands of dollars which would be spent yearly for maintenance of the old buildings had they remained. Therefore there is no justification for this argument.

Another objection is raised that this withdrawal of 2 cents will reduce the estimated general fund, but as above stated when the general fund has lost

the \$3,500,000 per year or less, at the same time the problem of meeting needing building costs which have run in figures of excess of \$22,300,000 per biennium will not be faced by the coming legislature. It is the opinion of many that the removal of the building needs from the budget requests will be of major importance in solving the coming financial problems of Oklahoma for the reason that succeeding legislatures will not be presented with demands for buildings and will be able to use all available funds for other functions.

The bond issue proposed to the people provides that if the cigarette tax is not sufficient to repay the debt, the legislature may impose other taxes. This is the only objectionable feature to the proposed bond issue measure. If the cigarette tax revenue should decline to such a point that principal and interest payments can not be met there is extreme doubt as to the wisdom of subjecting the people to additional taxes through an action taken when such large amounts of money have been made by direct appropriation to other functions. However, it is the opinion of the majority who have studied the

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CORRESPONDENCE

Family Trips to Sicily

Aboard S. S. Vulcania

Dear Mr. Beard,

Your letter reached me the day I left Dayton for New York. I tucked it among my things and now, during my relaxed and informal hours at sea, I have time to write you.

I would like very much to renew my subscription to the SOONER MAGAZINE and my membership in the alumni organization. . . . I enjoy news of my friends in Soonerland and elsewhere through your excellent magazine.

Your publication of addresses of alumni organizations in July I shall anticipate finding at home when I return from Italy on August 31. Since I am located in the Pacific Northwest, it will be especially helpful to me to identify myself with a club or group in that area.

Sincerely, Lena C. Adams, '48ma.

P. S. I forgot to tell you—Dad is returning to his home in Sicily, for the first time in 43 years. All his family are still there, except his parents, who are deceased. My mother, my youngest brother and I are making the trip with him. It should be a memorable summer for us all.—L. C. A.

Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Ted,

It might be news to some that I have spent the last year at the University of Michigan working on a master's degree in chemical engineering,

which I received in June. At the present I am in the process of finding a job.

While I was at school there this last year I met a couple of former O.U. students who are now working toward their doctor's degrees in chemical engineering. They are Phillip D. White, '43bs, '48m.eng, and John N. Dew, '44eng. These boys are quite interested in all the things that are happening here at O.U. I don't know much more other than we attended the O.U. Alumni meeting in Detroit and certainly enjoyed the Sugar Bowl pictures. Would have given anything to have been there.

That is about all for now.

Sincerely, Harold Connally, '48eng.

Honorary Association Members

(Continued from page 13)

John C. Delana (deceased)
(Mrs. John C. DeLana)
J. H. Felgar (deceased)
Paul V. Keen, Norman
(Irene Harmon Keen, '30)
S. W. Reaves, Norman
Irl Rhynes, address unknown
Ernest C. Ross, Norman
Robert H. Rucker, Norman
William Schriever, Norman
(Lucille W. Schriever, '22)
Robert Waters, Falls Church, Virginia
(Frances Willard Waters, '31)
W. Lee Woodward, Alva

The President Speaks

problem that 2 cents of the cigarette tax will adequately finance the proposed issue and the chief executive has made a statement that only such portions of the buildings will be built immediately as are most urgent. Therefore every safeguard will be taken to make certain that no additional taxes will ever become necessary. The wisdom of the bond issue is questioned only by those who have no confidence in the legislature because of their control of the building at the present time. No citizen of Oklahoma can study the requests made by the various institutions, the report of the Legislative Council, and Governor Turner's own statements without realizing that the State of Oklahoma has reached the time when it must accept its responsibility and construct proper educational, penal, and eleemosynary establishments. Sound business methods direct the borrowing of this money on the basis that the interest is no more than maintenance costs of inadequate establishments.

Critics of the bond issue must understand that the decision to present this issue was not a political one, but was the result of study and executive leadership. Oklahoma should step forward and accept its responsibility.

Dr. Hinman Named to Committee

Dr. E. Harold Hinman, director of the University school of public health, has been re-appointed to the committee on insect and rodent control of the national research council in Washington. The 10-man panel is an advisory group for the medical science research and development board, which in turn makes recommendations for testing and research programs by the army and navy. The committee was set up last year with Dr. Hinman as one of the charter members.

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