

Sooner Scene

By R. BOYD GUNNING

ORGANIZED ALUMNI of the state colleges and universities of Oklahoma went on record June 7 with strong recommendations for greater support of higher education. The report of the State Alumni Council for Higher Education called for a yearly appropriation of \$34,840,206 to operate the 18 schools during the coming biennium. This figure represents an increase of more than \$25 million over the appropriations for the current two-year period. The Council believes we must bring faculty salaries up to competitive levels.

A careful study of student enrollment emphasizes the need for prompt action. If the colleges are to accept all qualified high school graduates in the future as they do now, assuming the same percentage of these students seek admission, the present enrollment in the 18 schools of 38,460 will become 50,016 by 1962, and 63,609 by 1970.

Full-time faculty members needed to cope with growing enrollments must increase from the 1,758 at present to 2,901 by 1970, the Council reports.

The statement presented by the Council offered the following conclusions:

"1) To maintain our institutions as they are now functioning, at the present level of competence, the administrators of these institutions show conclusively a need for appropriated funds in the amount of \$34,840,2206 each year of the biennium beginning in 1956-60. As our institutions of Higher Education are now operating, this figure appears to your Council to be necessary. The most urgent need of higher education is to increase faculty salaries. Without adequate increases in appropriated funds, our entire system of higher education will degenerate or functions must be eliminated.

2) The sum of \$10,512,758 required for repair and modernization of the physical plants of the 18 institutions by 1960 should be provided in 1959 to allow the most efficient use of existing facilities. It is recommended that in subsequent years \$2,000,000 be provided annually for this purpose. The Council members believe it is false economy and a waste of

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valuable state buildings to permit them to deteriorate or stand idle due to a lack of funds for modernization and repair. It is significant to note that no funds have been appropriated for repair and modernization since 1955.

3) The Council recognizes a tremendous need for new buildings on many campuses. Space is already critical in many instances. With the "War Babies" entering college in 1960, increasing enrollments by an anticipated 65 per cent in 1970, it is imperative that a building program be presented in 1959 which will provide for present and anticipated enrollment increases. The Council believes it is imperative that the 1959 Legislature offer a solution of the new building needs. The new buildings must be ready for classes during the 1961-65 period when emergencies will develop in many institutions. From approval to completion, any major physical plant structure requires about three years. Administrators of the institutions present a total need for \$29,028,900 by 1960 if we are to meet present requirements of each of our institutions as now functioning. The Alumni Council will continue to study the building needs of our institutions and

will present a long-range building program in a later report.

4) To provide the greatest economy, efficiency and education possible, it is strongly urged that a long-range program of financial support for higher education be formulated. The present financial crisis of our institutions, precipitated by stop-gap financing, proves the need for such a program. This recommendation does not contemplate "ear-marking" funds, but is an urgent recommendation for planning, priority, determinations and tentative agreements on financing required beyond 2-year periods."

A complete copy of the report may be had by writing your alumni office.

The Council also presented a motion picture on Higher Education in Oklahoma, called REPORT ON TOMORROW. This film is a dramatized story of how the colleges influence the industrial, economic and cultural development of the state. It was produced under the direction of Ned Hockman, director of the O. U. Motion Picture department. The film is 16mm sound and in natural color. It runs about 23 minutes and is excellent for alumni, civic, PTA, or study club meetings. You

may use it free of charge by writing the O. U. Alumni Office. Copies of the film are also available at all state college film libraries.

The State Alumni Council has made remarkable progress since its organization last August. Its report is based on a year-long study which included visits to each of the 18 college campuses, plus a written report secured from each school on the points covered in the report.

A good many alumni have given generously of their time and energy without reward or credit in order to formulate a sound report on higher education in Oklahoma. Scott Orbison of Enid, an OSU graduate, has been an able president of the Council. O. U. Alumni were represented by O. T. McCall, Norman. Milt Phillips, President of the O. U. Alumni Association, was influential in the organization of the Council and was called on frequently by the officers for assistance and advice. Other members of this hard-working group included: John Smith (Central State), Mrs. F. H. McGregor (Oklahoma College for Women), Robert A. Beaty (Southeast-

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HEADLINERS

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lieved the production possibilities were there.

So Trice made what he considered a reasonable bid. He bid \$25,200. His vice-president and general counsel, former Houstonian James L. Pardue, thought of the \$200 because they figured the value of the lease, under the unusually heavy royalty arrangements, was \$25,000. The \$200 was to beat any competitor who figured as closely.

Trice bid with his eyes wide open. At the time he and his aides believed there was a good possibility for three good wells on the dump. Each, they estimated, would cost about \$70,000. They further figured that each would produce about 120,000 barrels on a 10-acre spacing pattern. Since the city was to get a quarter royalty and the land-owners an eighth, Trice was left with five-eighths. If all other figures were right, there was no bad luck, and the wells produced, it was estimated that for an investment of \$235,000 the company could expect a return of about \$500,000 when maintenance and other costs were deducted. The hope, too, was for deeper production which did not develop.

This would have worked out fine, too, except that the wells looked so good that Trice kept on drilling until he had hit 11 producers and one dry hole on the 320 acres. Since then, however, all except the three original wells have gone to salt water. The original three seem good for as long as it will take to pay them out. The hope is that they might produce long enough to also pay for what amounts to nine dry holes.

When the city offered to lease the prison farm, Trice made a bid simply out of good will. The relations between the city and the company had been so good that Trice wanted to show his appreciation. It was decided that \$25 an acre was a fair price, so that was the bid. Again Trice was the only bidder. So McCauley went to work and studied the geology (this had not been done before), and a well was drilled with only faint hope of success. Again Trice hit oil in a most unexpected place and all to the benefit of the taxpayers of Houston.

Lately the company has had trouble selling its oil because of the market situation, but arrangements were made recently to supply a special market at a price below that posted for the type of crude.

Cliff Trice is an unusual oil-man in many

respects. He does everything on credit. He says his participants, the bankers, and the supply houses make his kind of existence possible.

He frankly admits to being an inflationist.

"I believe people want to work and that the government owes no one a job," he says.

"We usually have 3 or 4 million people unemployed. That's normal. Temporarily there are more than 5 million out of work today," he says. "These people want new homes, new products, better cars, and all of the abundance our productive power can provide them with. The only way they can get those things is on terms—credit. That's how I operate and that is my philosophy.

"I believe that to accomplish our goal we will have to produce to meet the demand. I see nothing wrong with the value of the dollar going down as it has so long as people can continue to buy more of the things they want," he said. "The true value in this country will always be in real property. There is only so much real estate. As the population increases there will be less for each individual, so real values are bound to keep increasing."

For his own business Trice believes in diversification. He recently participated in the building of a modern motel in Shreveport. He is helping to build others. And he has other diversification ideas.

One thing about Trice is that he never seems to lose an employee. The reason is simple. Ask any Trice employee. They all get to participate one way or another in the company's success. This policy doesn't apply just to executives. It goes right down to the secretaries, clerks and men in the field.

"I want all of our people to be so secure they can work for the Trice Production Company without a worry," he says. "Then I believe we will get better, more efficient, performance.

Trice knows every individual who works for him. Occasionally there is a company party in Longview, Texas, at the exclusive Cherokee Club in Longview. On such occasions the Trice offices in Houston, LaFayette, Oklahoma City, Midland, Wichita Falls and Longview virtually close shop.

The parties serve the purpose of having everyone from everywhere know everyone else in the Trice organization. It knits the family together.

Trice is one of the country's leading Baptist laymen. All of his money-earning life he has tithed.

The Trice children are Alice Ann, 4, Judy Gail, 11, and Clifford Davis, 2½.

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ern)—all of Oklahoma City; Bryan Waid (Cameron), Lawton; Mrs. Zemula Williams (Langston), Sapulpa; Mrs. W. W. Starr (Northwestern), Alva; Maurine S. Smith (Northeastern State), Tahlequah; M. W. England and Pete Williams (Panhandle A&M), Goodwell and Boise City, respectively; Casper Duffer (East Central), Ada; Foreman Carlile (Connors State), Vian; L. M. Torbert (Northeastern Oklahoma A&M), Miami; W. W. Bess (Oklahoma Military Academy), Claremore; James A. Burnham (Southwestern), Canton; John Ringwald (Murray State), Tishomingo; Jones D. Reeves (Eastern Oklahoma A&M), Wilburton; and Jack Williams (Northern Oklahoma Jr. College), Tonkawa.

Never before have so many people been so well informed or so willing to work for the development of higher education in Oklahoma.

When the legislature meets in January, it must decide whether or not Oklahoma is going to offer adequate college training or resort to a program of mediocrity.

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