THE name of the University has appeared often in the state press during the last few months. The budget request, the Holliman plan for co-ordinating educational institutions, and the charges of communist teaching leveled against unnamed faculty members all were popular subjects for editorial writers. The Daily Oklahoman and Harlow’s Weekly of Oklahoma City, and the Tulsa Tribune published strong editorials emphasizing the importance of adequate financial support for the University of Oklahoma.

Immediately after the University’s budget hearing before a joint legislative committee, the Daily Oklahoman published the following editorial:

WHICH WAY, GENTLEMEN?

It is for the legislature to decide whether Oklahoma University shall rank among the great state universities or become just another one of Oklahoma’s many large number of ordinary state institutions.

And it is possible that the future of Oklahoma University will be determined for all time within the next fifty days.

The legislature can hurt Oklahoma University irreparably without wanting to do so or without even trying to do so. It can make the university a second grade institution through the coming years merely by regarding it as an ordinary state institution and assigning it to the level occupied by something like a dozen other state institutions. It can help to deprive the University of nationwide recognition and nationwide respect by postponing action upon its needs and requirements until after the other institutions of the state have been provided for.

It can insure the University’s secondary rank by giving the other schools approximately what they ask for and then giving the University a portion of what is left.

It can make it certain that the University will find a permanent place among the least important universities by repeating what the Sixteenth Legislature did when it gave the University considerably less money to maintain itself than was given to the A and M College.

Extraordinary conditions at Stillwater may have justified the extraordinary favors shown the A and M College in preference to the University two years ago. The A and M is a great institution and it is doing admirable work. But it does not occupy and it never was intended to occupy first place in Oklahoma education and culture and scholarship.

Moreover, every citizen who knows anything about Oklahoma politics knows that the 1937 discrimination in favor of the A and M College at the expense of the University was due to the bold and unenlightened fact that some school men have played politics and other school men have refused to play politics. Needs and merit had nothing in the world to do with the discrimination.

Now another legislature is in session and again there is a determined drive to make the future of the University precarious. Again there is a disposition to make the University the first and principal victim of all the economic programs. Again there is a disposition to consider its needs last of all.

Meanwhile, there is a determined effort on the part of certain political adventurers to advertise the University as a veritable hotbed and safe haven of the forces of sedition. Men whose democ-
Governor Phillips from putting Oklahoma on a pay-as-you-go basis is the fact that we still have in our Legislature a lot of representatives and senators who are of the low mentality that has been Oklahoma's costly tradition.

The University of Michigan is a great university backed by a great state. Michigan also maintains its separate agricultural and mechanical institutions at East Lansing, and the last year the state agricultural college at Ann Arbor, and not the one at Lansing, is the institution that is internationally known. It is Ann Arbor, and not Lansing, that has lifted Michigan into the industrial commonwealth that it is today.

Let no legislature in Oklahoma City ever get the silly notion that Stillwater is going to go back to its old lag and lose that international reputation for a creative cultural power. If Oklahoma ever has such an enviable reputation it will come from Norman.

The problem of higher education in Oklahoma was discussed by the Tulsa Tribune in the following editorial:

POLITICS VS. EDUCATION

It is in Universities the real worth of a people...—Haldane.

Oklahoma has a state constitution that makes it hard to pay the price of its citizens' neglect. Oklahoma is beginning to reap what she has sown. Oklahoma's pasture pastime has been sowing seeds of political folly. Oklahoma is beginning to feel the cost of the consummate stupidity of the territorial legislators and governors whose chief concern was making political trades, passing out political plums instead of doing their job of statesmen.

It was the work of statesmen, passing out political plums instead of doing their job of statesmen. The best of Oklahoma's governors have been only half smart. They all built upon a basis of trades, passing out political plums instead of doing their job of statesmen.

Today it is the champion of increasing tax burdens until the taxpayers' money to also do that which only the taxpayers' money could do. We have more teachers' colleges than a state needs. No other state has its own Vassar or Wellesley. Purely for political purposes we planted a state women's college for the choice girls whose protective parents thought it best. Oklahoma is now feeling the burden of maintaining cumbersome instructional plants.

We have more teachers' colleges than a state needs. No other state has its own Vassar or Wellesley. Purely for political purposes we planted a state women's college for the choice girls whose protective parents thought it best. Our citizens have voted to increase tax burdens until the tax load has reached the backs of all, rich and poor alike, placing it as much on what economists call the "lower brackets" as upon the higher brackets. Added to all these reversals of Democratic principle, which are common to all states that have endorsed the political shysters, Oklahoma is now feeling the burden of maintaining cumbersome instructional plants.

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the entire higher educational system of this state in the hands of the governor.

So far as is known publicly, the purposes of the governor in this connection have not been revealed. There is no doubt that he has some and there is no doubt that upon this spot, rather than any other spot, even including the financial problem, the attention of the administrators of the State's higher educational institutions ought to be concentrating.

In another issue, Harlone's Weekly referred to the Holliman plan as "the most intelligent approach to the problem of higher education in Oklahoma that has yet been made."

The Norman Transcript questioned the effectiveness of proposals heard in the legislature calling for some state colleges to be converted into institutions for freshmen from both the University and A. and M. College, leaving only upperclassmen in those institutions. Said the Transcript:

The plan is impractical because most high school graduates would not consent to be placed in junior colleges. If they want to attend either a state university or an A. and M. college, they would rather go to Kansas, Missouri, Texas, or some other state if they were denied admission to the University of Oklahoma or Oklahoma A. and M.

It is unsound educationally because of the wide variation in courses taken by freshmen, depending upon the school or department in which they expect to major. Freshmen engineers take far different work from those who plan to enter the technical college, the college of business, the medical school, the school of home economics, and so on.

Students who do their freshman work in one school and then change to another would be handicapped throughout their course because of variation in methods, personnel, etc.

Another reason why the plan is not practical is that all colleges in the state now have just as many students as they can handle, and if freshmen here (at Norman) were moved to some other school, it would have to be enlarged to care for them.

If the proposal, if carried out, would complicate the general problem of education in Oklahoma and would increase, rather than decrease, the costs.

The Oklahoma News criticized proposals to make a four-year college of the Oklahoma Military Academy at Claremore and to convert the Wilburton college into a vocational training school. The News commented editorially:

Legislature should delay action on measures changing the status of any of the state's institutions of higher learning until the governor's co-ordinating committee has time to develop a plan. Even building programs for those institutions should wait to see how their needs are modified by such a plan.

The Ponca City News also declared that "Oklahoma has all the state colleges, giving four-year courses, it needs." Many editorial writers joined in urging that the charges of communistic teaching aimed at the University be thoroughly aired before the public, so that the charges could be proved or definitely refuted.

The Sapulpa Herald commented: "The sooner the issue is thrashed out and truly settled the better for the students and the professors."

The Oklahoma News took Governor Phillips to task for accusing O. U. and A. and M. faculty members of "teaching communism," stating that on the face of it, it was a thrust at academic freedom because the charges did not accuse anyone of "advocating" communism. The News then added:

If he is charging faculty members with advocating Communism and Fascism, with spreading propaganda for these isms and inciting classroom controversies not pertinent to the course of study, the charges merit the fullest investigation. And the accused members should be given a chance to answer as freely and as publicly as the charges have been made.

In a world gone mad with repressive measures against the human rights so dear to Americans, we cannot combat foreign doctrines by sacrificing the properties of our own civil liberties. The way to meet the present issue is face it squarely and bring all facts into the open.

We hope Mr. Phillips will do that, without putting a black eye of intolerance on Oklahoma and its two biggest schools.

Hale V. Davis, editor of the Oklahoma City Herald, made a direct charge against the University in an editorial that stated in part:

In 1926, as a graduate student at O.U., the writer sat in the classes of one of the professors now under fire by the radical, American, un-Christian statements all year and challenged his statements in nearly every class and wondered why the authorities allowed such destructive teachings to go on. We appreciate our Alma Mater, and that wonderful year's experience, and intended to help see that my religious denominations influence in Oklahoma was killed, but lost all interest in his false cry for academic freedom.

Walter M. Harrison, writing in the Oklahoma City Times, said that he had been hearing reports of communistic teachings at the University for years but had never found any proof. His own children, who attended the University, gave him the "horse laugh" when he questioned them about the reports, he declared. He added:

I have a great respect for the judgment of Mayor Eugene Kerr, who has been a member of the Board of Regents of the state university for years. He was quoted this week as saying that he has spent a great deal of time checking reports of communism among the instructors and gave it as his conclusion that it is NOT A SINGLE COMMUNIST ON THE UNIVERSITY STAFF.

The capital letters above are Mr. Harrison's. Mr. Harrison also expressed the opinion that the governor should have localized his accusations by naming names and making an issue easy to dispose of.

"As the matter stands," Mr. Harrison wrote, "one has cast an ugly suspicion about a large group which is unjustified and unfair."

The Sapulpa Herald backed Mr. Phillips in his charges. An editorial stated:

Gov. Phillips is not mincing words on the question of communism innovations in state education. He frankly says he doesn't want it—and he has the backing of the same-thinking, educated people of the state.

The Norman Transcript urged vigorously that the communistic charges be investigated fully and that the University not allow the issue to be dropped until the good name of the institution is cleared. Said the Transcript:

Everyone who is in close touch with the University affairs or has a wide acquaintance among the faculty members knows that as a whole the faculty and administrative staff make us as fine and patriotic a group of citizens as could be found anywhere.

Like other people, faculty members vary in their social, economic, and political beliefs from conservative to liberal, with most of them at least progressive. A small minority, probably not more than 3 percent of the total, is more or less radical. Many of those who may be classed as radical in their views have made public statements in the past on social, economic, or political issues, and such statements may be the basis, at least in part, of the charges made by Governor Phillips that the University faculty includes some communists.

The governor is not specific in his charges; whatever information he may have was given to President Bizzell in closed conference.

If there are any avowed communists on the faculty and if any of them are teaching it in their classrooms, we do not know who they are. Yet talk about communists has cropped out so frequently in the past, in legislative halls and elsewhere, that the president and board of regents should conduct a thorough, impartial investigation and get all the facts. If communists are uncovered they should be dismissed.

If none are there, a full report covering the scope of the investigation and the findings should be presented to the public in a thorough and authoritative, and finally this issue. Wide interest has been shown over the state in these charges, and the University should not permit the incident to end without some clarification of the facts.

The issue of communism on the campus should be wiped out.

The Stillwater Daily Press stated editorially that "One is inclined to guess this uproar is a tempest in a teapot."

The Press added:

"Possibly the governor is a victim of malcontents carrying tales. Often a new governor is besieged by these fellows who hustle down to the statehouse with their worries and cause momentary alarm."

The governors soon have learned to shake off the trouble-shooters in the past and a similar result is likely this time—assuming all this red stuff is as flimsy as one close to camp naturally suppose."

The Elk City Daily News had this to say:

"If there be any professor who is attempting to "bore from within" by placing his minds of his students against the democracy of the United States, he should be fired without further ado. If he intends only to stimulate their minds he should be alone."

There are many genuine "reds" on the state payroll outside the educational institutions—only they are disguised under the Democratic party label—the Daily Oklahoman charged. Said the Oklahoman.

Would it not be a joke on somebody or other if the proposed investigation of "reds" in the higher state institution got out of hand and ran into the lower schools, the state departments, and even the most intimate circles of the Democratic party staff?

Not often in the past twenty years have the Democrats of Oklahoma been unwilling to promote a Marianist to office, provided he was willing to promote his Marianist doctrines as a Democrat instead of preaching them as a party socialist. So long as the erring brother votes the Democratic ticket he can preach and preach the extreme doctrines of Marx and Bolshevism without question.

The Guthrie Daily Leader commented:

Governor Phillips is too shrewd a public official to butt his head slap-bang against the Uni-

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As the State Press Sees It

(continued from page 14)

iversity of Oklahoma, and we wonder just what he has in mind toward the Norman institution. Is what is apparently a frontal attack right now merely a flank assault on something to come in the future?

Just off hand, the University and its powerful alumni association shouldn't attempt to deck itself in a "holier than thou" garment and smirk at the governor's rebukes. Few indeed, are the public institutions in this State which can't stand a little constructive criticism. x x x

If the State Legislature can satisfy the public on why Oklahoma A. and M. College, with a lesser enrollment, receives a more handsome appropriation each biennium than the University does, the smoke will be cleared from one salient question in the current controversy. Has politics something to do with it? You can answer that one.

A public appeal made by Lowery Harrell, former member of the Board of Regents, for former students of the University to rally to its assistance was criticized by the Enid Morning News which stated:

"An appeal is now made to the former students of the University to rally round the flag, boys, to see that friends write their representatives to support the University because "powerful interests are at work to destroy or undermine the institution, because the governor has made a direct attack upon it and is out to get it."

Could anything be more despicable than such representation? Could anything be more offensive to common honesty or more disgusting to common decency? And especially so when an appeal is made to the alumni of the University, composed as they are of our most intelligent class of citizenship. This class will see through the propaganda to the reasonableness of the procedure employed to get the facts, that the intention of the governor is not to destroy but to strengthen the University with good business administration.

On the other hand, the Ponca City News came to the support of President Bizzell in an editorial stating:

Efforts to embarrass President W. B. Bizzell continue and one can't help wondering about the cause for them. The head of a University needs to have a dual personality. First, he should be a scholar, a real educator and not only capable of directing youths in the paths of learning but also can aid in the formation of character. He also should have, to be a great administrator, business ability. Seldom do we find both highly developed in the same person. For our part, we are quite sure that President Bizzell has the first requirement.

He has maintained a dignified position as the head of our great school. He is in the real sense a scholar and a gentleman. If he has shown a lack of business ability, that need not be entirely surprising.

It should be possible to choose an assistant for him who could supply the business brains. He has not, we are pleased to record, stooped to political intrigue and sought to control other educational institutions in this State.

He has been content to do what he could to further the interests of the institution. Perhaps, because he has refused to play politics or cater to political factions, he has failed to secure support that otherwise might have been his.

Those who are now placing him in an embarrassing position might weigh well what they are doing in order not to encourage the other type of administrator.

The Hobart Democrat-Chief expressed belief that political worries are a big handicap to the University. It stated editorially:

The Legislature can do a harmful job of crippling one of the leading State institutions if it
Everyone wants well laundered shirts. There's nothing like the trim, neat, efficient appearance of a shirt that's been laundered in a fully equipped and modern laundry plant. Leave it to the Norman Steam Laundry to do up shirts just like a man wants them.

Norman Steam Laundry
71 PHONES

Seals
Rubber Stamps
Advertising Novelties
Write for Big Illustrated Catalog
Southwestern Stamp Works
303 N. Harvey
Oklahoma City

Photo Supplies
"Everything for the Photographer"
Books, Films, Chemicals, Cameras, Filters, Movies
OKLAHOMA PHOTO SUPPLY CO.
308 N. Broadway
Oklahoma City

Exide Batteries
U.S. Tires
Stop and Gas With Us
UNI SERVICE STATIONS
VAN PICK OIL CO.

Tydol Gasoline
Veedol Motor Oils

Cripples the state University. Our opinion is that Dr. Bizzell and the rest of the administrative faculty officials of the school could do a much better job if they did not have to worry about kowtowing to the political bosses of the State.

Concern over the "campaign...against President Bizzell" was expressed by the Frederick Leader. This newspaper commented:

Oklahoma citizens may well watch with interest and not a little concern the campaign against the political bosses of the State. Before the episode is closed, perhaps the people will be able to make up their minds whether there has been too much or too little politics connected with the University's management.

Dr. Bizzell is a school man, not a politician. He is an educator, not a diplomat. Under his direction the University has grown and taken high rank among like institutions in other states. As to how his ability compares with other University presidents few of the laity in Oklahoma are in a position to say—but at any rate, results obtained at Norman seem to measure up creditably with other great schools of learning in the country.

Governor Phillips says the University will be taken care of—that President Bizzell is in a rut, and that it will take a little effort to get him out. With all due respect to Dr. Bizzell, who is entitled to a large measure of respect and esteem for his fine work at the University, the governor may be right.

Perhaps if the president of the University were as well versed in the gentle art of persuasion of Dr. (Henry G.) Bennett—perhaps if he had the same knowledge of the men of influence in Oklahoma, if he were as well known personally to the people of the State as the president of A and M., he would not have to scatter his School of Petroleum Engineering about over the campus as is the condition now.

Now, if the governor really wants to do right by the University, and the Legislature is of the same mind, they will take into consideration its actual needs and go as far as they can to supply them.

And then, if he remains as the head of the school, President Bizzell might take a lesson from the fate of other University presidents who have lost sight of the great outside, enlarge his acquaintance, mix a little more politics with school policies, and thus cushion the school against the next attack that may be directed against it—or him.

Sings from blimp

Joseph Bentonelli, '20, popular opera singer, has been busy recently singing in opera presentations at Washington, D.C.; at a reception for members of Congress; at a Phi Beta Kappa program in New York City; and from a Goodyear blimp, high in the air over the national capital.

Washington newspapers reported it was the first time in radio history that an opera singer broadcast arias from a blimp. An accordion accompaniment was used, a piano apparently being beyond the capacity of a blimp.

Washington critics praised Bentonelli as the star performer in the Constitutional Hall presentations of "La Bohème."

Bentonelli appeared on the Phi Beta Kappa program in New York along with such celebrities as Dorothy Thompson, Dr. James Rowland Angell, Mark Sullivan, Dr. Roscoe Pound and others.

Bentonelli is the only member of Phi Beta Kappa, national scholastic society, now in opera.