A Major Operation on Education
So Newspapers and Alumni See Buildings Cut

State Should Find a Way to Provide, They Say; A Summary of Opinions

TO a state treasury deficit of $2,000,000 all building requests of Oklahoma higher educational institutions have been denied by a budget committee consisting of the governor, a member of the state senate and of the state house of representatives.

The University of Oklahoma, with $830,199 in building requests (already reduced by the state budget officer and approved by him for that amount), bore the major share of the cut, almost half of the deficit saving being at the expense of the university. The total institutional budget was cut $3,377,929.

The cut came at a time when the university was vitally in need of new buildings. Some of the building requests had been postponed two years ago. As it requires more than a year to complete a building for occupancy, the delay now, assuming that the next legislature will appropriate money for buildings, means a delay of almost four years.

No solution of the difficulty has been worked out by the university; but it is apparent that enrollment will have to be cut ruthlessly. There seems to be no other way out of the dilemma, unless the state decides to support its schools by direct taxation in place of the ad valorem tax.

Fortunately for the university, the request for salaries and maintenance was granted. H. Tom Kight, representing the house on the budget committee, attacked the extension division program and wanted to eliminate the extension division entirely. Overruled, he announced he would carry his fight to the floor of the house during the institutional appropriations discussion.

Governor Holloway, quoted in the Oklahoma City Times, declared: "I believe I know the fiscal affairs of the state fairly well. I believe the appropriations bills, as being prepared, will not impair the efficiency or usefulness of any institution. We are making fairly liberal provisions for all institutions on salaries, support and maintenance and repairs for the buildings. I do not believe the affairs of any institution are going to be hurt by our holding over for two years any further building programs."

"I want it understood that I will not approve any bill which would send the state expenditures above $29,000,000. With an estimated income of $31,000,000, such a budget would take care of the deficit in the state treasury. I believe the people of this state would appreciate our saving money out of that $29,000,000 budget."

A false report gained currency that the university would make a "drive" to secure some buildings. This was promptly denied by President Bizzell, who announced he would abide by the decision of the legislative budget committee. Governor Holloway issued a warning directed at the university, that no move to increase the budget allowance would be tolerated.

"Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University of Oklahoma, puts it squarely up to the chairman of the house and senate appropriations committees, H. Tom Kight and Tom Anglin, when they told him there would be no chance for the university to get any part of the $900,000 building appropriation for the next two years."

"We are overcrowded now," Doctor Bizzell said. "Our enrollment is growing rapidly each year. If the legislature does not give us the money to expand our plant capacity, it must enact laws which will permit us to turn away some of the high school graduates who seek entrance.""Growth of enrollment of universities throughout the middle west has been phenomenal in the last few years and no one can see any limit to it yet. There are fewer private and denominational schools in this section to take care of the students than in the east. It is certain that Oklahoma has not only started her growth and that this growth will be reflected at not only the university, but the agricultural and mechanical college and the lesser educational institutions maintained by the state."

"Doctor Bizzell's question to the appropriations committee chairman is pertinent. But it is doubtful if any answer will be made to it at the coming short session. The answer must await the crystallization of public opinion."

The Poteau News declares in its report of the budgetary cuts as follows: "As usual, the school systems of the state were the sufferers when our state capitol dictators began their slashing of expenses for the next year. Very few know of other expenses incurred by the state outside of our state schools, but they are not mentioned in the report. Following are the institutions that got it in the neck" (and here the News lists the reduction in the educational requests).

Walter Harrison, managing editor of the Daily Oklahoman and Oklahoma City Times, and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, declared pertinently in his editorial column, the Tiny Times: "If the state could knock its leech off the neck of our schools in the head, it would have the money to go ahead with the building program at the University of Oklahoma and the A. & M. college at Stillwater. Granting the necessity of stopping the building program be-
cause of the estimated state income of the biennium, the situation is none the less shamentful. Here is a rich state, growing more rapidly than any other commonwealth. Its university, doubling and redoubling in five years, suddenly faces a pause due to economy. It is expensive economy to slow down the University of Oklahoma which lacks several elements of being a complete university. Let's find a way to get ahead with it."

A contrary view is expressed by Carl Magee, editor of the Oklahoma News, in his column, Turning on the Light. Mr. Magee says:

"Governor Holloway is entirely right in insisting upon the state staying within its revenues during the next two years. Individuals are compelled to do that or go broke. Living beyond one's means is the short cut to the poorhouse. A state is not essentially different. We must increase our revenues or hold down our expenses.

To talk about 'the need' of exceeding our income has no appeal to us. Ninety-five per cent of the families of Oklahoma need more income than they have. They eat modest food, wear medium-priced clothing, limit the gasoline bill, stay at home, when they would like to go, and otherwise do without things they need and would like to have. We applaud their self-restraint and self-denial.

The state would like handier housing for its educational and other institutions. As rapidly as possible we all wish them to have the things to which they aspire. But it will not seriously hurt them to make temporary sacrifices. They will do no more harm than what they have. Brains and energy will substitute for money. They will profit by a temporary enforced economy. We cannot join in the present wall of disappointment, for the spiritually great schools are the ones that get more for their dollars as a result. The spiritually great schools are the ones that get more for their dollars as a result. The spiritually great schools are the ones that get more for their dollars as a result. The spiritually great schools are the ones that get more for their dollars as a result.

In order to care for the expected increase in enrollment next fall, university administrative officers have completed a schedule plan that will make Saturdays as full of class work as other school days. This schedule was to be submitted to the administrative council for its approval. Even then, it was doubtful whether class room facilities would be available.

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The Mayes County Democrat applauds the economy program and urges that institutions do with less. The Democrat is under the impression that institutions are supported by direct tax ratification rather than ad valorem taxes, as it states:

"We favor providing at state expense, every facility for those future leaders who really want to prepare for the kind of education so essential to the state's future. But it is our candid judgment that twenty-five per cent of the students in our higher institutions, who will not take their opportunities, could and should be sent home without any serious effect on future leadership and with positive profit to the student themselves. A whole lot of them would be better off pm, to work earning a livelihood instead of playing on just twenty at the expense of papa and the state. There probably is room enough in our institutions for the present, if scholastic lines were drawn as tightly as they should be. We know that such talk is not popular, but it is true.

"Meanwhile, the state has wholly failed to provide adequately for primary schools in the less prosperous counties. Boys and girls with real desire to learn are denied adequate facilities. It is education so essential to their preparation for citizenship and to a satisfactory economic status in life."

"When 1 e. o n o m y Handicaps Growth" is the title of one editorial in the Times. It follows:

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"The special session of the twelfth legislature will make a serious mistake if it undertakes higher taxation. The plan should be to cut the revenue needed to fit the probable income of the state. There are many institutions that can get along with far less appropriation than they have been getting. Give them a chance to practice some of the noted 'economy' we have heard preached by so many candidates, and thus favor the over-burdened taxpayer and give him a chance to get back on his feet. Of course it's a hurrying matter to break the institutional idols, but that combination had better be broken than the state."

"If residents or newspapers of Norman and Stillwater contend that the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma A. & M. college are entitled to more consideration than any other commonwealth, they undoubtedly would be subject to a charge of selfishness by other institutions, which would have no such reason to discuss the subject. When Oklahoma City newspapers take such an attitude, however, more attention must be given to it."

The Transcript quotes two editorials from the Oklahoma City Times.

The Oklahoma City Times from the time the budget cut was announced, has insisted vigorously that buildings must be provided for the university and A. & M. college. One of these editorials is quoted in our own editorial column.

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Another Times editorial, "Three or Four Year's Delay," reads:

"Governor Holloway appeals to many people by his policies of economy. In the main, they are sound policies, too, but it is likely he would modify his policy of whittling the building budget of our great educational institutions, if he would visit them more frequently, and sense their needs. We wonder, for instance, if he realizes what great congestion in class rooms and laboratories. It ties for teaching sciences.

He could tour the laboratories, look and learn something of this state's need in keeping abreast with facilities for teaching sciences.

"Let Governor Holloway and the legislature also realize that these institutions are growing. It is not fair to suggest turning the surplus away. Building budget of our great educational institutions, if he would visit them more frequently, and sense their needs. We wonder, for instance, if he realizes what great congestion in class rooms and laboratories.

It should also be borne in mind that halting the building program now will mean a three or four years' delay, rather than merely two years. New buildings, now made would make for addition to the university plant, for the permanent financing of the university.

"Appropriations by the legislature for additions to the university plant, new buildings, now made would make the new needed class rooms and laboratories available for use near the time the next legislature will convene. The university has to school life of less than four years duration. The greatly accelerated college attendance of the past few years evidences the increased public approval of the University of Oklahoma. This is no time to allow its capacity to serve to be diminished."

Jim Hatcher, '13 arts-sc., of Chickasha, former state commander of the American Legion, says:

"The state may be in a better shape than it looks like at this time, financially. The matter should be presented to the legislature fully and completely with a view of finding some way to finance the university. As a citizen and alumnus of that school, it seems to me that some way should be worked out for the permanent financing of the university."

Errett R. Newby, '07 arts-sc., Oklahoma City oilman, declares:

"While in Tulsa the first three days of this week I heard several men discussing the situation with reference to the building appropriations of the University of Oklahoma. There was considerable feeling over rumors that had come from the capital to the effect that any effort by the alumni of the university to make any change in the policy of the administration with reference to no buildings for the university would only react against the university.

"In the past suggestions of the same sort have been made, and the alumni have sat by, with arms folded and did nothing—and usually got nothing. Meanwhile, the university has been greatly hampered in its work and its efficiency has been held far below what the entire state is promised to have it attain, all because Oklahoma, one of the richest states in the union, is too poor (?) to give necessary support to its greatest school. Every dollar that the state of Oklahoma has spent on its university has been returned many times in the increased earning power and tax paying ability of the former students of this school.

"It seems to have been made clear that if we sit by—and do nothing this year the university will get nothing for new buildings. I am heartily in sympathy with the administration's economic policy, but I have found it a good thing for me personally to have a debt hanging over my head, provided it is incurred for good purposes, and I believe the same thing applies to the state. Hence there should be no reason to hold up the university. I am grateful for creating a modest debt. Moreover, an increase in crude oil prices such as is confidently expected now, will provide much additional revenue."

David M. Logan, '16 arts-sc., of Okmulgee, consulting geologist and member of the Oklahoma state legislature, declares:

"I do not believe that former students of the university should stand idly by and see the building program delayed for another two years. I am fully aware of the financial status of our state government, but I do not at all agree with those who would absolutely discontinue the construction of buildings at the state's educational institutions during the next two year period. To do so would impede the progress of our state university to such an extent that it would take years to recover. The University of Oklahoma and some of our other state institutions, are already far behind in their building needs and to delay construction at this time would seriously hamper the educational opportunities of the students of Oklahoma.

"The present governor and a great many people work on a different theory of government than my own. Those opposed to my idea think the thing to do is to plan the state's expenditures so as to distribute equitably the funds which are now collected for the maintenance of the government without modifying any of our existing revenue measures. My idea is that the matter should be handled in a different way and that is this:

"To estimate the absolute needs of our various state institutions and departments and to trim the estimate down to a low a figure as possible and then if the estimated existing revenues are insufficient to meet the state's needs that additional means of revenue should be devised. I believe in strict economy in state expenditures but I think it foolish for a state that is as wealthy as Oklahoma is to cause.
A Major Operation on Education

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its state university and its institutions and departments of state to suffer and handicap the opportunities of the youth of our state.

"Furthermore, I cannot see why the state should spend a half million dollars for another building alongside the capitol, which I will grant is needed but is not necessary in the sense that buildings are needed at the state university, at a time when the university building program is being entirely discontinued. I think the former students should speak out in this regard, and should speak in such a firm positive manner that they will be heard by the extra session of the twelfth legislature, so that the building program of the university will be carried on and not discontinued."

FOLLOWING the meeting of alumni, Mr. Harrison in his Tiny Times column of the Oklahoma City Times said he viewed the meeting with regret: that it would merely tend to upset the program on which the governor has worked hard; and that it would invite alumni of other state schools to pursue the same policy.

The Daily Oklahoman, under the caption of "Forget This," also looked askance at the meeting. It declared:

"Those who have fought for years to take Oklahoma university out of politics and politics out of the university, and who have rejoiced that so much has been accomplished by the present independent board of regents can hardly greet with approval the assertion of a university alumnus that hereafter the university is going to take a hand in the selection of the chairman of the house committee on appropriations.

"Of course, if all friends of the university should approve and follow the suggestion of this over-zealous alumnus, the university would be cast deeper into the mire of politics than it ever has been in all its history. Such an effort would entail the necessity of completing the job by naming the speaker of the house, the president of the senate, and even the governor of the state.

"It is a healthy sign when loyal alumni rally to the call of Alma Mater and present her need for help to the proper authorities. Such loyalty is a tribute both to the loyal alumni and the great school that won their affections. But the mistake of mobilizing that sentiment of loyalty and converting it into an agency seeking to control legislatures and pack legislative committees would inevitably react in a most disastrous way. It is difficult to conceive of any movement that would win a greater number of enemies for the university. The over-zealous alumnus should think twice before he proclaims any such political crusade as that."

THE Sooner Magazine has presented both sides of the building appropriations as dispassionately as it is possible. It is not the purpose of the editors to embarrass the university or the state administration. The primary function of this magazine is that of a NEWS MAGAZINE. And it is purely from that standpoint that the editors have presented in full the foregoing opinions. President Bizzell, it should be stated also, has most carefully refrained from any expression of opinion on the whole matter. His rectitude should enhance the admiration of people of this state for him.

Some confusion exists, apparently, in the state as to the terms "alumni" and "university." They are used interchangeably, as in the Oklahoman's editorial. Needless to say, the university will never get into politics; it can't afford to do so. And it is doubtful if alumni—entirely independent of the university—will want to do so. A great university cannot be built by politics—merit alone will do that. But what alumni do is independent of, and beyond the control of, the university. However, no political crusade was proclaimed at the Oklahoma City alumni meeting.

Thank You
Seniors of '29

Now that you have finished your journey in Soonerland and are ready to shoulder the responsibility of making your own way we wish to thank you for your patronage while at O. U. as well as extend our congratulations on accomplishing that which you set out to do, the earning of a university education.

Also, as alumni, we wish to remind you that we shall always be prepared to serve you when you return to the old Alma Mater for athletic contests, class meetings and the like.

Just phone 48 as usual

Signed, B. A. Clark

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