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### THE GETAWAY

"The art of boxing is dead; what the public wants is knockouts." This has been the condemnation which has been levelled upon the pugilistic sport. But the dictum of the padded ring has spread further than the limits of an open-air arena, a sporting club, or a gymnasium. It has filtered in some degree at least to every phase of human activity, and, fallacious or true, it has at sometime or other been applied to editorial endeavors of newspapers.

The Daily Nebraskan, today, starts a flight that is destined to continue for a semester. New hands are on the controls, new thoughts are laboring to pick a route that can be successfully navigated. The cargo of editorial views and purposes must not be made too burdensome, for far better be the flight that is entirely successful from the original flying field, than the one which necessitates jettison of hastily-conceived ideas and editorial aims, and a disastrous landing.

The relationship of the demand for knockouts to the editorial policy of newspapers is evident. When a new or revamped staff assumes the tasks of producing the paper which represents the sentiment of University of Nebraska students, and which attempts to gather the news of the campus and interpret it in the light of student thought, there is a certain amount of expectancy which accompanies the declaration of editorial policy. There is a tendency at least, to expect the spectacular, the radical, and the revolting stand. There is almost a wish in the hearts of many that the printed organ of student thought will give vent to militant opinions, and attack everything that shows flaws. "What the public wants is knockouts." But there will be none.

It is difficult to speculate upon the holdings of the future of subjects for editorial discussion. It is impossible to spot the air pockets, the currents, and the storm areas in the clouds which demand careful piloting. Aviators are instructed in the fundamentals of flying a plane, and once in the air, must be observant and cautious. They must meet what comes, steer around the obstacle if time permits and courage is lacking, or side-slip into a calmer area.

Certainly the first duty of the Nebraskan this semester shall be to catch up well-spun thread of editorial comment of the past few months. Necessarily, some of the editorial aims and purposes must be pliated. To labor for a greater university consciousness is the general premise upon which all cases will be presented. Students must realize in the first instance that they are students, and that they are one of the most important constituents of a citizen body, and that the corner of manhood and womanhood is not far away. They must grasp the conception of college life as one of the most important stages in human development.

The second realization must be that all student activities are to be interpreted in light of the general welfare and interest of all. This is the groundwork for editorial discussion of the affairs that are traceable directly to students and student activity. The University of Nebraska looks to the people of the state, and the citizens of the state are interested vitally in the University. Everything that takes form in this great institution has some relationship and bearing upon the people of Nebraska. The student must discern this hook-up with others. He must see that even the most insignificant of his activities in the University of Nebraska strike harder and are grounded outside his own group.

During the course of the semester are countless subjects coming to the surface to be debated upon, and to be decided upon. Many of them are of trivial nature, others very vital. With the start of the second semester, the slate has been fairly well sponged off, but no doubt there will be revivals of editorial discussion on those subjects which have occupied attention.

The tone and tempo of the editorial voice of the Nebraskan during the coming semester will be moderate, though at all times there will be the possibility of variation. Problems will be dealt with as they arise, and at no time will situations be fabricated simply for their services as editorial fodder. Readers of the paper will not be forced to resort to ear-muffling tactics for fear of an editorial thunder-clap.

Editorial influence is in direct ratio to the honesty and frankness with which opinions are expressed. If the Nebraskan can shed light upon University problems and subjects, students will find their own way. If the Nebraskan can aid in the development of a rugged independence and self-reliance without radicalism, and if it can help create a type of student body which thinks deeply and weighs well all problems within its range, then its mission will have been worth while.

Some instructors posted their grades for the first semester. Others waited until the first of the week to see who re-registered for their courses.

### SHAKE, FELLOW!

Mid-year graduation and mid-year registration for new students coming to the University of Nebraska are two of the insignificant aspects of university life to the student that has already been indoctrinated into the activities and duties of attending classes.

Indication of the comparatively small number of new students is alligned in recognition from

the remainder of the students because it does come at an unattractive time of year. There is no spirit that portends the conclusion of college life, and formal rites are reduced to a few routine duties. The hundred sixty-seven degrees that were granted from the various colleges of the University a few days ago were no less important than those which will be granted in the spring. To the graduates they mean just as much.

Absence of that three-day milling process of registration in the fall, and the great influx of new students who have chosen the University of Nebraska as their alma mater. The students who are already at the institution have formed friendships, contacts, and have become parts of the gigantic picture of a mid-western university.

There is no campus taking on the aspects of fall—golden brown leaves, students with a coat of tan that is three months thick, or the hurry and bustle that typifies the first few weeks of school. Football is but a memory now. Students entering the University for the first time might interpret this as a cold, hard-hearted attitude toward them. Rather than this attitude, the hand of welcome is just as warm, and the grip just as sincere, for the new student, as though he came in September.

It is a bit difficult to reconcile the need for new text books and the desire to buy a ticket for the interfraternity ball.

### THE INVESTIGATION

Appointment of a special committee of three from the Nebraska state senate by the lieutenant governor last week, to investigate for a possible seepage of propaganda from the power companies into the University of Nebraska, has attracted considerable attention since the inception in the senate of the resolution asking for the investigation. Senator McGowan of Madison county, Senator Jerry of Lancaster, and Senator Frush of Saunders have been designated as the investigating committee. It was declared Monday, that the progress of the investigation would be postponed until the latter part of this week.

Following the introduction of the resolution in the senate, University of Nebraska officials went on record as favoring the investigation for activities of the power interests within the University. They have literally spread the cards upon the table, and the senate investigating committee has been encouraged to follow up the careful scrutiny which has been suggested. There has been a welcome, not a rebuff.

On the other hand, it is gratifying to understand that the legislative bodies of the state are interested in the affairs of the University. Rather than a cantankerous outburst of opinion and ill-conceived investigation, the present situation is that of an interested legislative investigation encouraged and welcomed by the University.

One of the nicer things about a new semester is that nobody has guilty conscience about some back reading that ought to be done.

Where is the student who doesn't find some grounds for complaint? Monday, at noon, there was a harangue about instructors holding their classes for the full hour.

It is a real optimist who thumbs through the calendar this early in the game, forecasting a pleasant spring vacation.

And after it is all over, the student wonders if all those examination papers were really read.

### ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW

#### THE ETHICS OF EDUCATION

It is an excellent thing that Chancellor Burnett, the state senate, and the people of Nebraska all join together in welcoming the proposed investigation of the propaganda activities of the power companies in the University of Nebraska. The university deserves, if the implications contained in the testimony of Horace Davis before the federal trade commission the other day are not true, and if the rumors which have been current long before this testimony was given are not true, to have the falsity of the charges proved and to receive, not only officially, but popularly, a clean bill of health. And if the charges should be true, and the implications, it is high time that the harm were headed off, and the university faculty cleaned up.

As the case stands now, before the investigating committee of the state senate has begun its work, the admitted facts seem to be these:

The dear of the college of engineering collaborated with the representative of the power companies in arranging a series of lectures for the engineering students, given by public utility men, including the since well known Mr. Insull of Illinois, on the management of public utilities. There were five of the lectures, one a month, covering a half a year, and they were delivered to all of the students of the college of engineering at what Dean Ferguson called "an engineering convocation."

There was, it seems, also some co-operation between a university professor and the representative of the power companies relative to the publication of a book which the professor was writing on public utilities. Mr. Davis, representing the power companies, seems to have boasted that he had the professor going his way. The professor may have had another notion. This episode will be more clear, let us hope, after the investigation.

Without the facts ever having been clearly published, it was well known that, during the bickerings over the selection of a new chancellor at the university to succeed Chancellor Avery two years ago, the power companies evidenced a decidedly more than academic interest in the choice.

Public institutions, even such academic institutions as universities, are "in politics," and to be "in politics," it is "had to say, invites public suspicion and distrust. If the University of Nebraska suffers, either because of the revelations made before the federal trade commission or from those which will be made before the senate investigating committee, it will be because the university is supposed to maintain the ideals of the commonwealth. The university is supposed to be idealistic, no matter how "practical" the rest of the current world may be. This age of men, willing perhaps to wink an eye at ethics when ethics clashes with economics in its daily business life, still insists upon ethics of the strictest character, in its academic institutions. It will generously permit propaganda, of the business sort, everywhere else in its life and its institutions, but it recoils from propaganda in its schools—at least unless that propaganda is of the kind it pleases to call moral. That for years it welcomed the most insistent kind of propaganda in the schools against alcohol is no excuse. This propaganda bore the stamp of moral.

—Omaha World-Herald

### A STUDENT LOOKS AT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

By David Feilman

At this start of the new semester it is well to consider the words of Charles Evans Hughes, who recently expressed his opinion on one of the most important problems confronting the college student. Speaking at an alumni banquet given at Brown university, this eminent American discussed the much-discussed subject of college activities. "College activities," he said, "lend but small encouragement to the cultural processes of quiet and reflection. Large numbers of students with little appreciation of the true advantages of the college tend to conventionalize habits and put upon those who would have higher aims the curse of eccentricity. Personally I think that the discipline of life outside would be much better for many who are in college than the laxity induced by certain college associations. It should not be forgotten that the college is an educational institution, not a mere social club with certain despotic requirements. Those who are not disposed to make good use of the college years would be better off elsewhere." Those who are at present planning their careers in this university should weigh these words carefully.

Glenn Frank, brilliant president of Wisconsin university, names the following as the world's seven fears:

- "Fear that the white race is reproducing its worst element fastest;
- "Fear of being dominated by crowd thinking;
- "Fear of the industrial revolution destroying itself;
- "Fear that democracy is not the most efficient form of government;
- "Fear civilization moves in cycles, and the Western civilization is approaching its downfall;
- "Fear our institutions are becoming so big and so complicated that we are unable to train men to handle them;
- "Fear that the present generation has renounced allegiance to

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all wholesome standards of conduct."

Soon after the publication of this statement, Chief Justice William H. Taft, of the United States supreme court, said the following about that phenomenon in our national life which he considers its worst element. "It is difficult to describe precisely, but it may be understood when I characterize it as the materialistic philosophy which places wealth and worldly success ahead of every other consideration in life."

One of our state senators has introduced a bill that would raise the barber college to the same scholastic position that our universities are enjoying. The bill provides that no tonsorial hall of learning shall accept any student who has not completed four years of high school work. It also provides that the professors in these

institutions shall have Ph.D.'s or M.A.'s, before they are qualified to teach their art, or the equivalent of such a degree, from colleges and universities of recognized standing. This bill, if enacted into law by the state legislature, will be a substantial contribution to the culture of the state, and to the quality of the hair-trims that its citizens will hereafter be displaying. We humbly suggest that the legislature add to the qualifications of the barbering instructors the degree of Doctor of Medicine, with special work in skin and scalp treatment.

The morning paper brought news of a few events that deserve at least passing mention at this time. For one thing, Charles A. Sorensen, the attorney-general of the state, has announced, in a very vigorous letter to the chief of police of Omaha, that if he doesn't close certain gambling dens in

Omaha, the police power of the state would be used to accomplish that end. The chief of police has issued a statement denying the general import of the attorney-general's statement, asserting that his letter will be taken care of right away. The letter of the chief law-enforcing agent of the state

has created a great furor, however, and we are all waiting to see what will happen.

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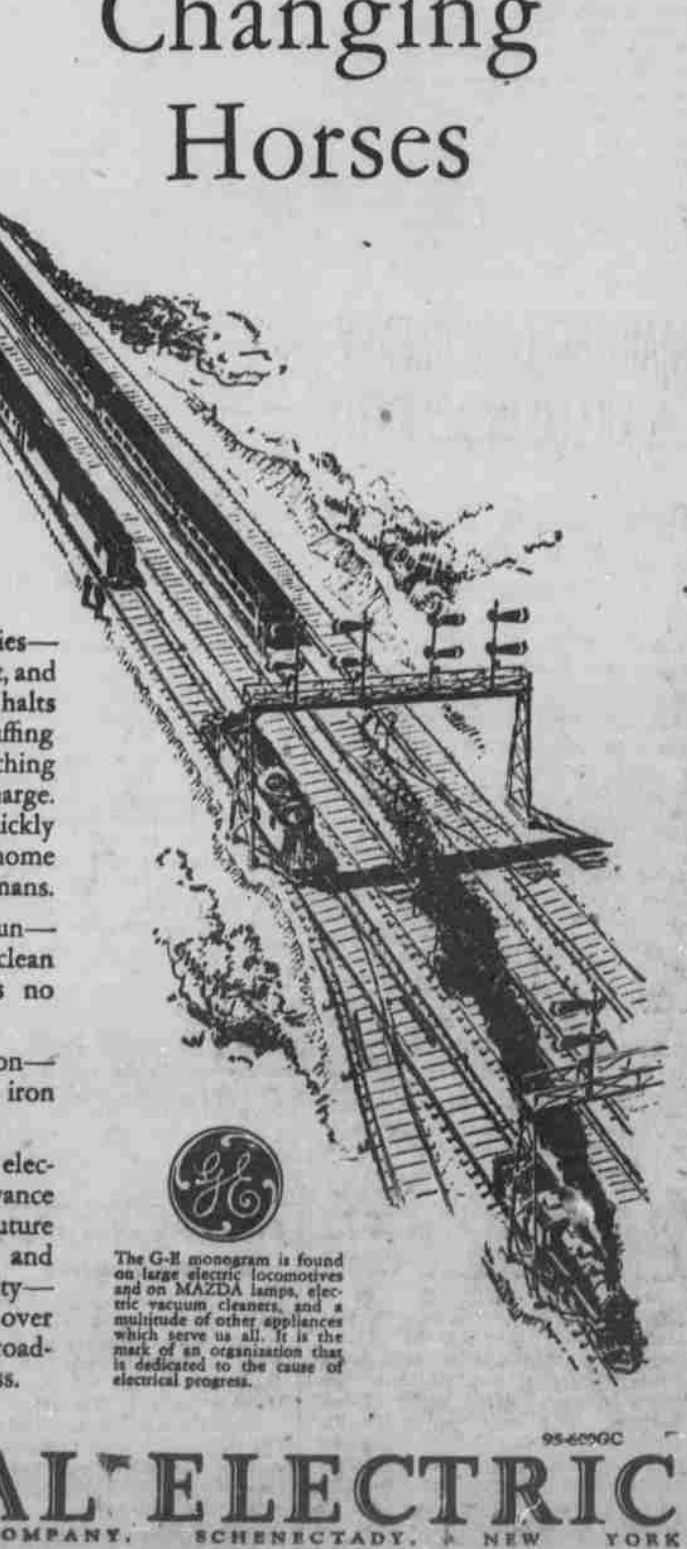
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