

# Daily Nebraskan

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THE basis on which the committee has decided what salary each employee of the university shall get, therefore, is clearly arbitrary. It is an almost unbelievable attempt to work out a detailed and complicated problem by slipshod and hit-or-miss plucking of figures out of thin atmosphere. If any proof were needed of the way the salary schedule was queered, it is provided by a mere glance at some of the results. One faculty member, for example, picked at random, formerly getting \$2,560, is now reduced to \$2,225. Another, formerly receiving a greater salary, namely \$2,710, is to receive \$2,200, or less than the first faculty member.

THE Nebraskan attempted to point out in its editorial Sunday that the university does not represent any special personal interests. In determining the appropriations for this institution a grave injustice is done if the matter be considered in the light of the personal interests of faculty members or as a special interest of the city of Lincoln. It is rather a matter of adjusting the necessity for reducing the costs of government with the interests of the state itself in maintaining an efficient and worthy institution of higher learning.

But by bringing out the report as it has done, the legislative committee has stirred up all these extraneous interests. They have made of the university a political institution. They have encouraged sectional and personal interests to blot out the interests of the students of Nebraska and therefore the interests of the state itself. Even the interests of the taxpayers have not been considered in their proper light.

The university, because it is not the type of political institution which is in the habit of pulling wires to secure favors, has been thought to be an easy mark for the legislative axe. It is now being asked, not to take its share of the budget cost cutting of the state, but to take by far the biggest slice of this cost cutting.

THE presence of a terrible depression in the land has not altogether obliterated the fact that some men, by reason of long preparation, experience, and native ability, are rare and hard to find. Consequently their services, according to the laws of economics, are worth more than the services of just anybody.

The legislative committee has entirely overlooked this fact in its report. They are treating specialists in the profession of education as they would treat a mass of unskilled laborers. They are proceeding on the assumption that the personnel of an educational institution can be easily maintained no matter what reimbursement is provided. No doubt they have in mind the millions of unemployed

who are eager to take any kind of a job.

If this is the idea of the legislative committee, well and good. Whatever professors on the university faculty decide to leave and go to places where they can be better rewarded for their services, can be replaced by recruits from in front of the Lincoln city hall. No doubt, too, members of the legislature will have relatives and friends who would like jobs on the faculty.

NEBRASKA university under these conditions will resolve itself into an agency to take up the slack in the unemployed ranks. The taxpayers will have been saved some slight amount of money, and irreparable damage will have been done the university from an educational point of view.

We do not believe that the faculty members of the university would be unwilling to take even the tremendous cut in salary proposed by the committee if they had reasonable assurance that it was a temporary emergency measure based on a methodical plan. We realize that some of them for one reason or another are unwilling or unable to move away from Lincoln.

But we are convinced that when the job of running the university is taken over by a purely political body and made subject to the chances of politics and arbitrary authority, most if not all faculty members will be willing to give up the ghost. They have been thru times when their salaries were barely sufficient to maintain them on the bare necessities of life; they were looked down upon by everyone who was making money hand over fist; but they were content.

Now they are asked, or rather told, to go to the bottom of the ladder and take their chances of ever climbing up again. They are expected to consider themselves lucky to be able to subsist. The fact that they are drawing regular pay which looks like big money in these times, is made the basis for a personal attack upon them which disregards fundamental considerations of ability and service.

THE Nebraskan has only this to suggest. It is a simple suggestion which we feel qualified to make in view of the fact that we have about as little knowledge of university administrative affairs as has the legislature.

We believe that the legislature must leave the matter of administration to university authorities and the Board of Regents. If the legislature feels that it is necessary to slice from the university funds a greater amount than that recommended by Governor Bryan, let there be a definite understanding that it is a temporary measure. Let the university know that the quality of men it has on its faculty is appreciated; that the state wants a first class university.

Let there be no feeling on the part of faculty members that they must look elsewhere if they expect to secure a just appraisal of their value. Make it plain to the faculty members that they do not have to leave Nebraska in case they desire to be connected with a university run in the interests of the youth of the state.

May the interests of education, subject as they are to necessary temporary retrenchment, be placed paramount to personal and political considerations. Let these interests supersede the pride of the politician in telling his constituents how much money was pared from the state budget regardless of how or at what sacrifice to the true interests of the state.

### Aylesworth Argues in Favor of Miller Plan

Arguments for the proposed J. E. Miller plan for a change in the city government of Lincoln were advanced by Professor L. E. Aylesworth of the department of political science at a meeting of the Democratic Luncheon club recently. He was opposed by John O. Chapman.

### STUDENTS APPROVE PROPOSED BLANKET TAX SURVEY SHOWS

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unestimable value, but they should not be made a burden on the student in times of distress." Suggesting the only successful way out would be a compulsory tax, Skade declared, "The only way the plan would work would be a plan which was absolutely compulsory. This could not come about. Even though the price would be somewhat lower, I think students should be allowed their choice and when that is allowed it is no longer a compulsory tax. I do not believe students should be forced to expend money for activities unless it is their desire, even though there is no argument that every student should realize the value of activities and the benefit they receive from them."

### Co-ordinating Force.

Whole heartedly for the plan, Jack Thompson, president of the Innocents society, declared that the proposed tax would be the finest co-ordinating force conceivable.

"It has proved a fine success in the great majority of the schools in which it has been tried," Thompson said, "and it is remarkable because it gives all students access to every activity at a fraction of the present cost. The resulting monetary stability would infuse new life blood into the extra-curricular system."

"I endorse the student tax, not because of the fact that I am business manager of the Daily Nebraskan," stated Chalmers Graham, "but because upon it depends the future development of the publications. These hard times have been doubly hard on student enterprises and there is no doubt that students would become more interested in the school if they would take an interest in its activities."

### Plan Centers Expense.

Frances Cunningham, editor of the Awgwan, suggested a new thought in approving the plan. "I think its a fine idea," he said, "because it centers the expense on everybody instead of making a few pay for the enjoyment of some of the others."

"I hope it will go over because at the present time some people enjoy student publications which others pay for. The new tax would be a great advance towards equalizing price. The added circulation that it will give student publications will make the advertising much easier to sell and will thus result in an improved quality of the publication."

### Stable Financial Basis.

Phil Brownell, editor of the Daily Nebraskan, briefly assented to the idea. "I am convinced that it is a wise plan both for the student body and for all activities included. It is the only way which I can see towards ever putting publications on a stable financial basis."

Suggesting that activities included in such a plan should be carefully selected so as to reduce the tax to a minimum Ralph Spencer, editor of the Cornhusker, declared, "Such a plan would be a very good thing if a committee could be selected to investigate and pick out those activities worthy of support."

"This would eliminate an undue burden on any one student. To be successful it would have to be compulsory and the tax would be most conveniently handled tacked on to the fees the student pays at registration. The plan would succeed if the tax was not greater than \$10, but to reduce it to such a figure much investigation would have to be done."

### WHAT IS A TEACHER WORTH?

(Continued from Page 1.) public education, and legislators—to consider how great a sacrifice leaders in education can stand before their spirit is broken. What is there in life, after all, that is more important to each oncoming generation than its education, for, as someone has said, "Education is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no crime destroy, no enemy alienate, no despotism enslave."

If such reductions as are being

recommended to the legislature by the investigating committee are to become effective, the faculty of the University of Nebraska will be severely hurt. If a great state can build so great a capitol as has the state of Nebraska, can it forget that the real strength of its university rests in the morale of the teachers? And that, after all, the hurt administered to oncoming student generations through what may be a collapse of the morale of the faculty, coupled with the removal of some of its choice teachers to other institutions, will cost the state many times more than the mere \$385,000 that it is proposing to save beyond the governor's budget for the University of Nebraska for the next biennial.

The University of Nebraska is great by reason of her spirit—this spirit is the spirit of her able teachers. Can anyone understandingly see her spirit thus impoverished without a protest? Every graduate of the university and every thoughtful citizen should be interested in this question, for once the spirit of so great an institution as the University of Nebraska is broken, it is difficult to estimate the cost in terms of tangible items.

In the following words may I appeal to every thoughtful friend of education to cherish the value of the influence of the teacher:

"If it takes a fifty thousand dollar man to Guide a client, Develop a coal mine, Put a corporation on its feet, What is the teacher worth, who takes that boy of yours Guides him, Develops him, Puts him on his feet, and Makes a man of him?"

### BLUEPRINT REVIEWS AERONAUTICS FIELD

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tinued in this month's magazine. This is the second of a series of articles of this type which will conclude with the issue next month.

A modern laboratory for the study of concrete is described in an article by Charles C. McNamara, a graduate in 1931. The laboratories described in the article are two that were set up in Denver to study the problems of the use of mass concrete that occur in the construction of the Hoover dam.

The data on the new mercury vapor plant for the production of power which has been built by the General Electric company in Schenectady is presented in the Science and Engineering department of the magazine by A. L. Coffin.

Dean O. J. Ferguson, in his page in the issue, stresses the necessity of good will for success in business life. The number also contains a summary of Prof. Jules W. Haney's bulletin on the use of coal and coke in heating homes.

Dr. Robert E. Cornish, research associate in anatomy at the University of California, has failed in three attempts to restore life to the dead with his "Back to Life" machine. He will attempt future experiments on animals.

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