

### THE NIMBLE SPANIEL by Sam Warren

Twice within one school year two nationally outstanding authorities on world affairs have been brought to the campus by the Montgomery lectureship on current government, for a series of three lectures, Dr. Karl Friedrich of Harvard speaking in November on Germany, and Owen W. Lattimore lecturing this past week on China.

It was the explicit hope of the establishers of the Montgomery lectureship to bring to students, as well as faculty and townspeople, valuable analyses of world situations by authorities whom they might not otherwise have an opportunity to hear. Such a hope is similar to that of the university convocations committee, although its schedule of speakers includes others than spokesmen on government.

But both series face one major problem: Reaching the students. The difficulty is two-fold. First, the addresses as a rule are presented in halls that will seat only 350 to 1,000 persons out of the approximately 8,000 city campus students, these figures representing, respectively, the capacities of the Love library auditorium and the Union ballroom, where convocations are usually held. Second, even if Lincoln had an Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum's seating capacity to offer, convocations would still reach a bare ten percent of the university population as long as the administration maintains its mining, insipid policy on the dismissal of classes for important convocations. (At present, dismissal is the individual concern of each professor whose classes come at the hour of the convocation.)

At the University of Southern California ten minutes are subtracted from each class period on the day of convocations. All buildings are locked during the convocation hour, and the students flock to the special event in the thousands, not in five hundreds or fifties. This diminishing of period time is accomplished without the aid of a central bell system, but through co-operation of students and faculty.

At the University of Minnesota, one period per week is set aside as convocation hour and no classes are scheduled at that hour on that particular day. For example, the hour chosen may be 11 a. m. Friday. As many two-hour courses as possible are then scheduled for Monday-Wednesday and Tuesday-Thursday at 11 so that the third hour does not interfere with course work. With library and Union closed during the period (as they were here when the chancellor spoke on the Mexican UNESCO conference last December), the majority of students wants to attend.

With the thoughtful planning on the part of the university calendar committee this second type of program could be worked out. Agreement of the University Senate could enact the first type of system. At any rate, something should be done so that a student, in his four years at university, could take in more than one or two from the number offered each year.

The convocations committee's main objection to the standard hour apparently is that it does not know at the beginning of the year just when all convocations will be scheduled, since it often engages speakers as they "happen" through this part of the country.

It would seem, however, that monthly convocations could be scheduled for the coliseum at the beginning of the year at a set hour, with special interest convocations added as they became available.



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