

Law Students Get Legislative, Judicial, Administrative Training Says Beutel

The University's Law College has not one but two histories, said Dean Frederick K. Beutel in an interview Monday. "When I came here in 1945 this was an



DEAN BEUTEL

empty building. Every member of the staff is new. The curriculum is new. We opened our second 'session' in January 1946 with 80 students. We now have 233 and are still growing."

The college's pre-war history began in 1891, the Dean continued, operating steadily until 1942 when its faculty and students went off to war.

Three Features

The present curriculum was originated by Dean Beutel, with the assistance of the faculty which he has built up since 1945. It has three features which are unique in law schools in this country, based on the Dean's belief that lawyers should be trained for administrative and legislative branches of government as well as judicial.

The outstanding feature is emphasis on public law which Dean Beutel defines as "the law that governs operations of the government." Fifty years ago when law school curricula were established, he commented, "government was a necessary nuisance, which had very little part in our every day life or in the practice of law."

Public Law Vital

"Today almost 25 per cent of the national income is spent for federal government and one third to one of our national income is spent for government as a whole," he continued. "Government interferes with everything we do, so public law has risen to tremendous importance in the practice of every lawyer and in everybody's daily activity."

Dean Beutel's experience in responsible positions in the federal government have convinced him that the average graduate of a law school employed in the government knows nothing about public law!

"Since most heads and many responsible employers of governmental departments are first trained as lawyers," he said, "there is great need for broader legal training in the basic science of government."

The second original feature of the new curriculum is the teaching of legislation. Legislation, the dean explained, is the means by which law grows and changes, and today practically all of our law has its roots in whole or in part in enactments of various state legislatures and the national Congress. "Most legislators are lawyers, he continued, and thus many lawyers constantly work with legislation. "They should learn to make laws, interpret the law and use it in administrative government," he said. A new legislative laboratory will be started next fall to complete the cycle of legislative study.

The third original feature is instruction in all court procedure by practice laboratory methods.

The students draft regular briefs and try cases in a manner similar to trials conducted in actual court.

A new legal aid clinic has been established in the law school building which takes cases for people who are unable to pay lawyer's fees. The students do the legal work under the direction of members of the local barristers club, who are practicing lawyers. Many leading law schools have this type of service.

Selective Registration

Another innovation of Dean Beutel's is selective registration. Applicants for admission to the Law College must pass legal apti-

tude examinations. "At present," he said, "we are taking only about 60 per cent of the applicants. Classes can therefore be conducted on a higher professional level than would be possible without such selection." He added that Nebraska is cooperating with about 10 or 15 leading law schools in the selection process.

"By these tests we are able to eliminate in advance those people who are sure to fail, so that our failure rate has dropped down to about 20 per cent. In the past," the dean continued, "about 50 per cent of the students in the Law College didn't make it."

Met Entourage to Migrate Here For 'Tosca' Production Soon

When the Metropolitan Opera company, making its first coast-to-coast tour in 20 years, moves into Lincoln next week for its single appearance in the midwest between Denver and Minneapolis, the event will be little short of a whole migration!

A total personnel of 300, requiring two trains to accommodate equipment for the nationwide tour, will arrive at 1 and 2 p. m. Wednesday, April 28, to present "La Tosca" by Puccini at 8:30 p. m. in the University Coliseum, under the sponsorship of the Lincoln symphony orchestra association.

Included in the extensive entourage are the Met's full orchestra of 88 pieces, the entire 90-voice stage chorus, and a highly-trained technical crew, in

addition to the four principals. Mr. Edward Johnson, distinguished general manager, travels with the group.

The soloists are Regina Resnik, American-born soprano who has become a leading Met performer since joining the company just four years ago; Swedish tenor Jussi Bjoerling, who has been heard in more than 50 roles throughout the musical world; John Brownlee, Australian baritone who won success at Covent Garden and the Opera Comique before joining the Met roster in 1935; and finally, Salvatore Baccaloni, celebrated basso buffo whose comic antics have made him a top-notch favorite with Metropolitan audiences.



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