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## Democracy

### At Its Best.

A PROPOSAL to grant to the president of the United States what is termed by some the autocratic power to balance the budget is now pending in congress. President-elect Roosevelt is anxious to be given the authority and claims he is willing to stake his chances for re-election in 1936 upon the successful carrying out of this tremendous responsibility.

The proposed power would grant the president the right of reorganizing departments, cutting out functions entirely or reducing them as he sees fit. The only limitations would be those imposed by the constitution.

Although some of the individuals who are backing the proposal are those who so jealously guarded the prerogatives of congress when it was a question of granting President Hoover some of this authority, the idea seems a good one. It has been conclusively demonstrated that congress cannot come to any agreement on reductions. A vigorous retrenchment program requires a certain degree of ruthlessness, a unified policy, as well as an executive understanding of the problems presented.

Congress, as a representative of all the composite interests, cannot adopt a unified policy. Each member has certain interests which he is bound to protect and a policy of log-rolling inevitably results. Members of congress dare not be ruthless; they are too sensitive to the various powerful interests that may work against them in future elections.

PRESIDENT Hoover, who has several times requested some authority of this nature but was denied it largely on party grounds, at first expressed approval of granting this authority to his successor. Since his first statement, however, he has changed his attitude to some extent, claiming now that the power is too broad and gives the president virtual dictatorial powers.

While it is clear that some degree of restriction should be imposed by congress it is also clear that to be effective there must be a rather wide discretionary authority. The fact that congress has never before granted away this "traditional" power over the purse is not necessarily an argument for refusing to grant some discretion to the president now. Merely to argue against the proposal on this ground is to ignore the issue involved.

With centralized authority there also goes unified responsibility and ardent exponents of democratic principles need not become unduly alarmed at the surrendering of a congressional prerogative under conditions which now exist. Democracy is actually in a better position to work successfully when responsibility can be fixed.

When a crew of representatives

and senators get together expressing the views of different interests, wrangle over the methods of reducing expenditures, and in the end accomplish nothing, it is difficult to find anyone to hold responsible for the failure. But when an executive undertakes a job and is granted the authority to do the job, he can be held responsible. If he does the job well, he is deserving of re-election; if he fails, he cannot blame congress for the failure and diffuse the responsibility.

## Take a Peek At the Past.

THE Nebraska student of 1933 is inclined to be a bit skeptical about the equipment and facilities of his alma mater, but a glance at the historical features in the latest issue of the Nebraska Alumnus ought to engender appreciation. In words and pictures the story of the growth of an institution is vividly portrayed.

Of especial interest is the 11th street vista, with University hall looming at the end of the shackled road. The descriptive lines under the picture, which was taken in the early seventies, are revealing in their comment: "... An impressive sight was University hall, the new temple of learning which the state had erected at the north edge of Lincoln less than two years ago. Proud indeed were Nebraskans of the huge brick structure with its lofty tower and glistening windows, although a few growled that it was too big and expensive—and probably never would have enough students to fill the place."

It is a long step from the seventies to the thirties, and one which determined moderns are inclined to ignore. The inadequacies of present facilities invariably overshadow the glowing story of past achievement from humble beginnings, but critics ought to leave their caustic remarks with the realization that today's equipment represents the culmination of long years of struggle.

The current period is one of retrenchment and uncertainty, and there are many who find themselves unable to stave off pessimism and despair. Educational development, from the point of view of material accumulation, is at a standstill, and the activities of many great institutions are curtailed. But the university, founded as it is on years of steady growth and high idealism, will not be seriously injured.

Men die, and buildings crumble, but institutions live on.

## Youthful Defenders Of the Faith.

TO those with a sense of humor it is laughable when an organization takes upon itself the duty of branding certain prominent individuals as dangerous because they are "radicals." That most celebrated and worthy organization commonly known as the D. A. R. several years ago was the laughing stock of the nation by reason of its so called blacklist of individuals deemed by the pompous matrons to be "radicals" and hence unpatriotic.

Now the national Scabbard and Blade magazine comes out with a list of individuals who are termed detrimental to American welfare. Among these bad guys is listed the name of Senator William E. Borah of Idaho. Scabbard and Blade is an organization of college men and yet hardly having reached the age where they are allowed to vote these young gentlemen have become such thorough and conservative defenders of all the meaningless shibboleths of patriotism that they are engaged in the practice of separating the sheep from the goats in terms of patriotism, radicalism, or something.

Before we adopt any protective measures to stop our ears to the doctrines of heresy which these radicals no doubt are disseminating we should like to know, for instance, wherein Senator Borah is such a menace. Perhaps it would

then become evident that he merely disagrees with some of the time-hallowed ideas to which subscribe the patron saints of this forward looking organization of college prodigies called Scabbard and Blade.

We have an idea that if all the individuals who go about gratuitously bestowing the epithet of "radical" and "non-patriotic" on whomsoever they please could be corralled in one place and given an examination that not an intelligent definition of radicalism or patriotism could be elicited from the lot.

What hurts is the realization that colleges are capable of turning out just as many lame-brained adherents to catch words and catch phrases as already exist in society. It is unfortunate that the pastime of blacklisting on the basis of doctrines cannot be confined to societies of doddering, pompous old ladies whose only claim to recognition lies in their ability to trace their ancestry back to some war or other.

## Y. W. AND Y. M. PLAN TO HOLD CONCLAVE

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sidered by Nebraska Wesleyan university, affirmative, and Peru state normal, negative. Doane college, affirmative, and Kearney state normal, negative, will take the topic "Is our present economic system incompatible with the highest development of human personality?"

Open forums will be held between debates in order to give the students the opportunity to express their personal opinions.

Dr. J. E. LeRossignol, dean of the College of Business Administration of the university, will present, at the last meeting on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, possible alternatives to our present economic system. After this summary, Meredith Nelson, president of the Y. M. C. A., will lead the discussion on "What shall we students do about it?" The conference will adjourn at 11 o'clock.

Plans are being made to hold a banquet on Saturday night. Registration for local students is 25c with an additional 15c for the banquet. All meetings and banquet will be held in Ellen Smith Hall.

## PROFESSOR SCHRAMM HAS HARROWING EXPERIENCE ON EXPEDITION TO MEXICO

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about which the natives have painted many grotesque legends, is the Silver Cholla. This cactuslike plant has no respect for common leather chaps, as sheet iron is the only thing that will protect the rider from this twisted mass of animated needles, according to Mr. Schramm's explanation.

Professor Schramm felt that this expedition was by far the most dangerous, and most interesting of the series. He says that after one has been there and seen the country and landscape, its people, and its customs, it is difficult to forget.

## CHRISTIAN GROUPS KEEP ANNUAL RACE RELATION SUNDAY

Eleventh Annual Race Relation Sunday will be observed by members of the Y. W. C. A. today at the Methodist church at Vine and 17th st. All students interested in international and interracial relations are urged to attend this observance. A series of talks will be given by students of different races. Special music is planned.

A Colgate psych. prof. required his students to sleep in class so he could determine the most efficient pitch for an alarm clock.

Three Iowa State wrestlers have won national collegiate championships in the 135 lb. class—Arthur Holding, 1928, Hugh Linn, 1930 and Richard Cole, 1931.

## VIEWS REVIEWS

By Clark C. Bradley.

Can you name ten books that you read during 1932? Perhaps you didn't read that many books during the year, but even if you did you will probably find it difficult to make such a list. I found that the task required considerable pondering. However, after perusing a few of my back columns and asking others for reminders, I was able to compile a list, but I believe that I have still forgotten several.

Of course, my reading hasn't been as comprehensive nor as exhaustive as it might have been, but I am invading the sacred realm of the sport scribblers and am attempting to make an honor selection. If you don't agree with my judgment, remember that it may be merely because I had not read everything that came out during last year.

As the big three I list Pearl S. Buck's "Good Earth;" Eugene O'Neill's "Mourning Becomes Electra," and Sinclair Lewis' "Ann Vickers." I am of the opinion that these three books possess the qualities that merit their being considered the three outstanding literary works of the year. It happens that each is quite different both in subject matter and style, yet they seem to have something in common.

Other works that I find deserving of commendation are "And Life Goes On," Vicki Baum; "Inheritance," Phyllis Bentley; "Secret Sentence," Vicki Baum; "Amok," Stefan Zweig; "State Fair," Phil Stong; "Beyond Desire," Sherwood Anderson; "The Great Mouthpiece," Gene Fowler, "I Cover the Waterfront," Max Miller. As I said, there are probably many other books that are equally good, if not better than these.

While I am on the subject, I have also picked the years two worst novels. They are, in my estimation, Tiffany Thayer's "Three Sheet" and Tom Goodrich's "Cotton Cavalier." I understand that this latest sex orgy by Tiffany Thayer is receiving considerable attention on the campus. "Cotton Cavalier" was the novel which won College Humor's annual contest in 1932. The contest dead line was extended six months, but even this doesn't seem to have been very effective, for the ultimate winner was but a weak and rambling piece of work.

## WATER WELL DRILLERS ASSOCIATION TO MEET

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tion are Frank Bowers, Blue Hill, H. H. Brown, Blair, and R. D. Smith, Wahoo. District chairman of the Nebraska Well Drillers association are R. H. Rash, Gordon, district 1; L. A. McLean, Broken Bow, district 2; Jay Webb, Hastings, district 3; A. A. Horn, Papillion, district 4; and E. W. Miller, Milford, district 5.

Sessions will be held on both the Nebraska campus in Nebraska hall, and at the Hotel Lincoln. Besides the regular sessions of the organizations, the convention will be featured by exhibits from manufacturers and jobbers on display at Nebraska hall, two banquets, a luncheon, and a tour showing the high lights of the city.

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## PROFESSOR GIVES ADVICE

Dr. Woods Tells Students Not to Worry Too Much.

AMES, Iowa, Feb. 11.—Don't worry at all about the past, nor too much about the future if you want your responses to present conditions to be effective.

That is the advice given by Dr. Andrew H. Woods, director of the State University of Iowa Psychopathic hospital, who spoke to women attending the Farm and Home Week Program at Iowa State College recently.

"Worry is diseased foresight," Dr. Woods said. "Animals respond only to present conditions. Man has more flexible powers of thought. The best plan is to center attention on the tasks and opportunities of today, but with a sufficient view of future needs and later results of the day's action to orient oneself toward worthy goals."

## OFFICIALS OPPOSE PROPOSED STATUTE

Measure Would Separate Administration of Institutions.

LOS ANGELES.—(CNS).—Regents and officials of the University of California last week were outspoken in their opposition to proposed legislation which would separate the Berkeley and Los Angeles divisions of the institution.

At the present time, the University of California at Berkeley and at Los Angeles are under one administration. A bill introduced in the state legislature by Assemblyman Charles W. Dempster of Los Angeles, however, would separate the two, establishing the Los Angeles division as "California State University." The Berkeley division would retain the name, "University of California."

Dr. Ernest C. Moore, U. C. L. A. provost, and regents of the university who live in Los Angeles, declared the separation would be a mistake. They predicted the defeat of the measure.

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