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The University Is Not a Selfish Interest.

THE Nebraskan does not wish to overdo the matter of expressing indignation at the poor judgment (very mild) of the legislative committee in its report concerning the university. But we feel that the time has come for vigorous expressions of opinion on the matter. We urge the students and alumni of the institution to use any proper means to make felt the disapproval which seems to be widespread of the recommendations of the committee.

The university has until now remained supine awaiting whatever it should be the pleasure of the legislature to deal out to it. The university would and should have remained passive if it had not been for the stupidity displayed by the legislative committee in assuming the administrative powers of the university board of regents.

Furthermore, the drastic cut recommended by the committee is proper cause for complaint inasmuch as it goes beyond a sensible limit for cutting this institution. The additional cut proposed by the legislature over Governor Bryan's proposal will make considerable difference to the university, but, as the regents point out, will make the difference of only 34-100 of 1 percent on each dollar paid by each taxpayer in the state.

THERE is no cause for putting up the interests of the university as an institution against all other interests of the state. The question is not one of each professor and instructor complaining against a cut on a personal basis. The Nebraskan merely wants the legislature to understand that there is a general sentiment on the part of those who have no monetary interest whatsoever in university appropriations, that the report of the committee is neither fair nor sensible. These people are interested only in seeing that the institution is neither injected into politics nor unnecessarily crippled financially.

The Nebraskan believes that students can aid somewhat in the process of getting this sentiment out into the open where the legislators may feel it immediately. If the sentiment of the student body be without influence, there are relatives and friends of students, alumni of the university all over the state who are interested and influential. It is within the power of the students to enlist these people to make known to the legislature their attitude upon the subject.

The "noisy agitators," as the Lincoln Star calls them, have had their say. Let the citizens of Nebraska have theirs, and right quickly. The time honored method of writing letters, to representatives and senators may be a bit obnoxious, but it sometimes seems to have effect. If the legislature can be impressed with the fact

that it is not a question of personal interest on the part of the university but of state interest now and in the future, they may be less zealous in their blind swinging of the economy axe.

Postscript—We notice that the legislative committee in a statement issued Monday denies that any political considerations entered into the formulation of the recommendation. Frankly, if we were the committee, we should prefer to have at least this as an excuse for the way the report was made. Otherwise it reflects seriously on the committee's sense of logic.

They also say that the people of Nebraska are not "now able to maintain an aristocratic body during the present biennium." Maybe we're wrong but we recall no findings in their report as to the aristocratic tendencies of the institution. Surely they should have included this in their report if it is true. As opposed to the state penitentiary and the state hospital, perhaps the university is aristocratic.

Is Patriotism Extreme Nationalism?

IT is a long distance from a group of Nebraska club women to the foreign policy of the nation, but not such a distance as to prevent the D. A. R., meeting in convention at Hastings last week, to reveal themselves as little more than jingoists. After importing the state commander of the American Legion to speak to them, the patriots went on record as opposing recognition of Soviet Russia, and then, as if this action did not already brand them as shortsighted nationalists, the feminine militarists classed themselves with the huge American group of meddlers by forwarding a copy of their resolution to President Roosevelt.

Here, it seems, is an excellent illustration of what critics mean when they declare that America is full of intolerance, despite its claim to be "the home of the free." Just such intolerance was the foundation of another nationalistic organization which stirred the melting pot into a froth years ago—the Ku Klux Klan.

The attitude reflected by the D. A. R.'s resolution can be seen concentrated in a line from the speech by Robert A. Armstrong, American Legion commander, who said it is "high time for us to hunt down all alien reptiles who are spreading the poison of communism against homes and schools and send them back to the country from which they came." Mr. Armstrong also indulged in a particularly violent bit of flag waving by charging that a representative of the soviet was even now at work in Lincoln among students—a charge so palpably absurd as to merit only laughter.

WHAT, we wonder, would have been the reaction of the state's patriotic women if they had been present in the halls of congress recently when Alfred E. Smith advocated recognition of Russia, declaring that he did not "know any reason for not doing it"? That, indeed, would have been a spectacle for the pious ladies!

Backing up his advocacy of Russia, Mr. Smith further said some things worth noticing:

"... Somebody says they owe us \$100,000. We kept troops in Russia for quite a while when we were not at war with them, and we did some damage to them. I think we could sit around the table and settle that matter very easily.

"There is no use in trading with them under cover. We are doing it. Thru the Amtorg, or whatever you call it, the Russian Trading company, our material and stuff is getting into Russia.

"We might just as well be represented there and let them be represented here at Washington, and let us do business with them in the open.

"... I do not believe in being

against them just because they have a form of government we do not like."

THIS is the statement of a man prominent in public life, a man whose work has given him occasion to investigate the tremendous amount of anti-soviet ballyhoo which has flooded the country through the channels of just such "patriotic" societies as the D. A. R. Set against the absurdities published at the state convention of that organization, Mr. Smith's statement makes the D. A. R. resolution appear in its true colors, as shortsighted nationalism brought to a climax.

When bigger wars are made, it will be "patriots" like the Daughters of the American Revolution who will cause them.

SLASHES WOULD CRIPPLE SCHOOL

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that schedule. The Board of Regents believes that this committee, acting in the stress of an emergency, has inadvertently overlooked the most fundamental principle of efficient University management and has started on a course that will prove distinctly harmful to the University.

The constitution of the State of Nebraska vests the Board of Regents with power to administer the University under the broad, general direction of the state legislature. The Regents are invested with responsibility as to the selection of the faculty and the determination of individual salaries, while the Legislature has responsibility to determine such questions as types of colleges to be set up, activities to be authorized, appropriations for the support of the institution, and similar broad, general powers.

From the beginning of the University the power of the Regents to administer its internal affairs has been recognized as a responsibility conferred upon them by the constitution of the State of Nebraska and not heretofore challenged in the more than sixty years of its operation. It is only a step from fixing individual salaries to appointing janitors, professors, and administrative officers. Determination of salaries by the legislature would place a premium on the political activities of professors and would prove embarrassing to members of the legislature.

3. One of the most injurious features in the committee's report is obvious from an examination of the following table showing the percentage of the proposed salary cuts in the various college budgets:

	Present Salary Schedule	Recommended Cut	Percent of Cut
Administration	\$108,349	\$ 20,934	19.3
Arts and Science College	383,663	105,151	27.4
Fine Arts and Music Schools	39,947	3,687	9.2
School of Journalism	4,430	1,080	24.4
Graduate College	12,128	2,553	21.0
Business Administration College	60,410	9,835	16.2
Teachers College	92,470	13,255	14.3
Engineering College	93,408	18,432	19.7
Agricultural College	224,006	17,036	7.6
Dentistry College	31,898	4,133	12.9
Pharmacy College	14,340	2,800	19.5
Law College	33,480	8,875	26.5
Medical College	155,296	15,266	9.8
Physical Plant	19,168	3,218	16.7
Agricultural Experiment Station	147,123	19,770	13.6
Agricultural Extension	85,450	16,293	19.0
Library	44,208	14,736	33.3
General Accounts	41,787	11,984	28.6
Commercial Activities	18,140	18,140	100.0
Special Activities	17,746	3,061	17.2
County Agents	76,520	19,130	25.0
Extension Division	19,192	2,742	13.7
Service Department	21,642	3,427	15.8

No reason is given by the committee for the difference in these cuts, which range from 7.6 to 27.4 in the different colleges. The College of Arts and Sciences is given the most drastic cut of all. The committee has evidently overlooked the facts that the College of Arts and Sciences was the first college of the University to be established, that its work is vital as a basis for work in the professional schools of the University, and that it constitutes the very heart and center of the educational activities of the University. The University library is slashed 33 per cent, notwithstanding it furnishes the indispensable tools for professors and students alike and is essential to the proper functioning of every college of this institution. If there are to be differences in salary cuts as applied to the different colleges, such differences should be made to depend on the relative services rendered and the relative necessity to a state educational institution.

All to Same Salary Level.
4. The most unfortunate feature of the salary cut proposed by the committee is that it tends to reduce all men on the faculty to the same salary level. The Regents

believe that the efficiency and the reputation of the University are dependent upon the outstanding qualities of its key men, its deans and leading professors. If the governing board is unable to reward exceptional service or to meet salaries of competing institutions, the University cannot continue to be "one of which Nebraskans can be justly proud." The theory that the physical needs of faculty members are about equal and this may be used as the standard of fixing salaries is utterly fallacious. The Regents agree that the higher salaried men should take relatively higher cuts than those in the lower levels, but believe that the ratio should not be so fixed as to penalize the ablest men on its faculty and leave little incentive for anyone to do exceptional work. Standardize all salaries to the lowest point of physical subsistence and the result is the wrecking of this institution as an efficient servant of the people of this state.

Exponent of Economics.

5. The report of the committee proposes a cut of \$385,000 below the Bryan budget. Governor Bryan has long been noted as an exponent of governmental economies. The Board of Regents has shown its desire for rigid economy by voluntarily taking a 10 percent slash on salaries with \$1,000 exemption and by reducing their request below last year's budget. The University was the only state expending agency so to do. The Bryan budget has reduced state appropriations to the University by over \$800,000 from the appropriations made in the preceding biennium. The proposed cut of the committee will reduce such appropriations over \$1,185,000 from tax sources.

Dealt With as a Whole.

6. It is apparent that the fact finding committee dealt with University appropriations as a whole and did not take into consideration that the \$576,061.20 from Federal sources is not subject to direction by the legislature. The authority of the state over such funds is purely that of trustee. Federal funds are closely hedged about by Federal laws. They are audited by Federal officers and may be withheld for misuse. The legislature will not desire to absorb Federal funds to replace state funds withdrawn through retrenchment. Such use clearly would be illegal and would jeopardize all Federal appropriations to the University. Whatever reductions have been made from this \$376,061.20 cannot be made effective and must be restored, since using Federal funds to replace tax money would be misuse of funds.

Saving Would Be Small.

7. How much will the proposed

be noted that the legislative appropriation operates over a two-year period and that it is quite probable that during this period a rise of prices will automatically operate as an additional salary cut.

If the extra cut proposed by the committee were of an appreciable benefit to any individual property owner in the State of Nebraska, this letter would not be addressed to you. We submit that an institution with a record of sixty-four years of service to the State of Nebraska should not be needlessly crippled. The decision is with you, but the chief loss of any crippling of the University will be borne by the younger generation of Nebraskans.

In view of the fact that the Board of Regents is responsible for the maintenance and direction of the University it requests that whatever appropriation is finally granted to the University by the legislature shall not be hedged about by restrictions, but shall be subject to such distribution as the Board deems advisable.

During the sixty-four years of the existence of the University its governing board has always administered the University within the appropriation made by the legislature. No Board of Regents has ever appeared before the Legislature with a deficiency. The present Board will operate the University during the next biennium within the appropriation given it. The Board of Regents believes that it should be given the opportunity to operate a University of which the citizens of Nebraska may continue to be proud.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion A. Shaw
Fred A. Marsh
Earl Cline
Frank J. Taylor
Stanley D. Long
Arthur C. Stokes

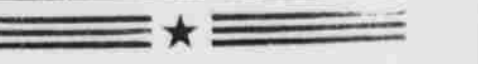
LITERARY CIRCLES DIRECT ATTENTION TOWARD FORMER UNIVERSITY STUDENT

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cago, has pronounced artistic talents and does considerable work in pastels of Nebraska scenes around the Platte valley. Mark Thomas is a student in the university at the present time.

Dorothy Thomas attended Lincoln high school, and took three years of work in this university. Although most of her writing has been developed since she left school she credits Professors Stepanek, Wimberly and Pound under whom she took work, with giving her considerable help and encouragement.

A play which she has recently written, "There Goes the Bride," will be published soon by Samuel French. "Joy Bell," a story, will be a part of O'Brien's anthology of "The Best Short Stories of 1932," and two other short stories will appear in the April issue of Harpers and The American Mercury.



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