

Legislature Tangles With Budget Hikes for NU, Normal Schools

By FRITZ PICARD

Concurrent happenings in the state house find Chancellor Gustavson fighting to prevent a \$2,200,000 budget cut for NU while the Normal Board has asked for a 72 percent increase in its budget.

The four state teachers colleges probably asked for the amount because of LB 236, now on general file, which provides that those institutions shall be empowered to grant the liberal arts course Bachelor of Arts degree.

Although a 72 percent increase is asked, V. P. Morey, Wayne State president, wrote to a legislative sub-committee that Wayne's curriculum "would for the most part be sufficient for us to grant majors in the liberal arts fields," and "that it will not be necessary for us to add very many additional faculty members." President Cushing of Kearney Teachers College testified that the grant of liberal arts degrees would not require "any great expansion" in faculty or course offerings.

Senator Wm. A. Metzger, sole opponent of the measure, said in an interview with a Daily Nebraskan reporter that the normal schools "were meant to be small, not to cover large areas of general education. Their primary purpose is to train teachers." Senator Metzger also expressed

doubt that the schools could grant AB degrees without a great expense to the taxpayers, who should "be trying to support the one liberal arts college they have, and not diffuse their resources by trying to establish five state universities."

The arguments on both sides line up something like this:

Those favoring a bill permitting the normal schools to grant AB degrees feel that there is a need for regional liberal arts schools and that Lincoln is too far away to allow students to come here without inconveniencing them.

In answer to this Senator Metzger has introduced LB 183 which would permit the normal schools to give a two-year course in the liberal arts, but retain the four-year course as one which would lead to the grant of one of the three degrees in education which a normal school may now give. This would make teacher training the primary but not the sole purpose of the colleges.

Furthermore, it would answer the demands of those who insist Nebraska should have regional liberal arts schools. According to Senator Metzger "The purpose of this bill is not to restrict the present powers or functions of the normal schools, or to diminish their importance . . . on the contrary, it is intended to broaden their functions as now prescribed by law, though not as far as the normal schools themselves would like."

The main issues, however, seem to be closely bound up in the questions of "How much money will the proposed expansion cost?" and "What will the quality of the degrees offered by the normal schools be?"

As noted above, the proponents of LB 236 and other bills extending the scope of the teachers colleges have taken the somewhat paradoxical position of asking for a 72% increase in their budgets, yet them seem to feel

that the addition of a liberal arts course would entail little expense or curriculum readjustment. In addition, those favoring the measures have affirmed the adequacy and high quality of the faculty and physical plants of the normal schools located at Chadron, Wayne, Kearney and Peru.

To these claims Senator Metzger immediately posed an opposite. In an interview last week-end the Senator reiterated his belief that "such a measure would lead eventually to an effort to establish five universities" and that Nebraska has neither the population nor the resources to support such an undertaking. The Senator also wondered whether the North Central Association would approve the present set up at our normal schools. (The North Central Association inspects the number and content of courses, qualifications of faculty members and their adequacy of library and laboratory facilities.)

Those who are skeptical of the teachers colleges' ability to grant worth-while AB degrees have pointed to the fact that Chadron, with an enrollment of 357, claims to be able to give 278 courses; Peru's case has caused even more comment as the school purports to offer 353 courses while its enrollment in October, 1948, was 376. Also, 72 of the courses are education courses.

Senator Metzger expects that the measure will come before the house some time in the very near future.

The Theatre's Dilemma . . .

What about the University Theater?

This question, although seemingly unimportant in the Comptroller's office, is of paramount interest in the office of the head of the Speech department.

A visit to Dr. Leroy Lasse's headquarters was a quiet occasion. No explanations about the wheels of a large university, no discussions of "practicality," but only a serious discussion of the dilemma and a questioning reference to the future happened at this interview.

After the first announcement of the condemnation of the Temple auditorium, immediate problems had to be reckoned with, problems which were understood to be only temporary in nature. Productions were moved to the Plainsman Theater, season ticket refunds were offered, presentation nights were reduced and the plays had to be changed. On top of these changes, a new problem loomed over the Theatre—deficit. About \$3,600 went down the drain with the refunds on season tickets and the reduced audience at the plays.

Still thinking that the situation was still marked "temporary," however, these problems did not seem so great, and dramatics started talking about "next year . . ."

Now, "next year." Still there is no change in the condition of the auditorium, the wheels are still reported to be "slowly moving," and still nothing has been offered on which to base next year's program. The Speech department was authorized to make

recommendations for next year's Theatre productions.

In answer to what the recommendation was, Dr. Lasse presented the following plans:

(1) That arrangements be made with the Nebraska Theater for the production of the five regular plays next season.

(2) That the number of performances be cut to two rather than the usual four.

(3) That for two performances and one technical rehearsal of each play, the Theater will have to be rented for 15 days at \$350 per day, amounting to \$5,250 for the entire season.

(4) If renovation could be completed before the season ends next year, rental prices could be cut proportionally.

Dr. Lasse pointed out that although the University Theater has always been self sustaining, the gate receipts cover the costs of production. Consequently, the cost of rental cannot come out of gate receipts but must be supplied by the powers that are grinding so slowly over a decision at present.

The one thought that keeps running through the minds of the Speech department is that the Theater must not be stopped. It is a laboratory for dramatic ability and must be supplied for the healthy functioning of the department.

Whether it must take up a "home away from home" next year or whether it could take its rightful place in the Temple auditorium after some hasty rolling of the NU wheels, the Theatre's "show must go on." LOUISE McDILL.

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Theologian to Talk Here Holy Week

The Very Reverend Alden D. Kelley, Ph.D., president and dean of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill., will speak April 11, 12 and 13 at the Episcopal University Chapel on the subject "Warriors of God."

The talks will cover the themes of life, death, time and eternity. Reverend Kelley will address an all-University religious convocation Wednesday, April 13, at 5 p.m. in the Union lounge on the topic "To Rise Above the Common."

The speaker holds the A.B. de-

gree from Tufts, M.A. and Ph.D. from Wisconsin, and S.T.B. from General Theological Seminary. Kenyon and Hobart colleges have given him honorary degrees. The National Council of the Episcopal church appointed him secretary for college work in 1939, and in 1941 he became executive secretary of the division of college work.

These talks are a part of Holy Week observance and all University students are encouraged to attend.

ALL MEN WHO want to be in any of the dancing choruses for the Kosmet Klub spring show should meet Thursday, 7 p.m., at the Temple.

Sinfonians Plan Spring Concert

Phi Mu Alpha—Sinfonia, national music fraternity, will present annual spring concert in the Union ballroom, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will include the Sinfonia Glee Club, the Woodwind Quintet, and a Trombone trio.

Highlighting the program will be the Sinfonia Glee Club. They will sing three American Folk songs: "Barbra Allen, I am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger and Sourwood Mountain."

Phi Mu Alpha—Sinfonia awards a \$50 scholarship to one of its members each year. The scholarship is based on scholarship and financial aid. Robert Parks is president of the group, and Emanuel Wishnow is the faculty advisor.

P.E. Department Aids High Schools

Nebraska schools and communities are getting help in planning recreation programs.

The University department of Physical Education for men is helping plan either summer or year-round recreation programs, planning new athletic stadiums or playfields, construction of bleachers and apparatus, revision of school courses in health, physical education and recreation, and other problems.

According to L. E. Means, department chairman, advisory service has been given at Hebron, Omaha, Plainville, Louisville, Weeping Water, Fremont, Crete, Hartington, Minden, DeWitt and Lincoln in the last three weeks.

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EDITORIAL

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