

Why the University of Nebraska Should Be Consolidated on the State Farm Campus

Arguments in Support of the Consolidation Prepared by Regents Copeland and Haller and Filed with the Secretary of State for Publication in the Official Pamphlet that is to Go to the Voters of the State of Nebraska.

Argument on university consolidation, filed with the secretary of state by Regents Haller and Copeland, for the official pamphlet that is to go to the voters of Nebraska.

To the Voters of Nebraska: The important question of consolidating the colleges of the university now upon the downtown campus in Lincoln, with the Agricultural college upon the state farm, also situated in Lincoln, was referred by the legislature to the voters for determination.

The legislature voted a three-fourths of 1 mill tax for six years, all of this money to be used, in the event of consolidation, to develop the university at the state farm.

In the event, however, that the voters decide against consolidation, then one-third of the tax will be used to develop the Agricultural college separately upon the state farm, and two-thirds of it will be used to enlarge the city campus and erect buildings thereon. This tax is already levied and will be collected in any event.

As regents of the state university, having in mind its best and lasting welfare, and also the economic interests of the taxpayers, we deem it our duty to present to you the facts, which have led us to the firm conclusion that the future usefulness of the university and especially the Agricultural college, as well as the financial welfare of the taxpayers, demand consolidation at the state farm.

From a careful investigation, after visiting many other universities and agricultural colleges, and after becoming acquainted with the history and experience of those institutions where the agricultural college is a physical part of the university, and also the harassing problems, and the tremendous extra cost to the taxpayers of those states where the agricultural college is separate from the main university plant, we are absolutely convinced that the future usefulness of Nebraska to attempt to maintain its Agricultural college separate from the main university plant and to build up two distinct institutions upon two campuses in one and the same city.

Judiciously extended, the \$2,500,000, which the tax levied by the last legislature will yield, within the six years provided, is amply sufficient to provide adequate buildings and equipment for a splendid university plant, giving nearly three times the amount of floor space in all of the buildings now upon the city campus. This would provide new buildings, all of modern fireproof construction.

Under the law, to consolidate at the state farm, cannot cost the taxpayers any more money than to extend the downtown campus, and it is very certain that after the six years' period it will cost much less to operate one institution on the farm site than to operate two separate institutions two and a half miles apart.

The experiences of all institutions similar to our state university prove that the attempt to extend the downtown campus and keep the Agricultural college separate would tend to weaken both educationally, would be unnecessarily costly to the taxpayers and would result in constant friction and useless competition between the two institutions doing similar work within so short a distance of each other.

We have consulted with the leading agricultural educators of the United States, who, without exception, advise consolidation at the state farm, declaring that the agricultural student will be greatly helped and that it is most unwise to separate the student in agriculture from the other students in the university. Such men as Dean Bailey of Cornell, Dean Davenport of Illinois, Dean Russell of Wisconsin, President A. Ross Hill of the State University of Missouri, President Schurman of Cornell, Dr. E. T. True, director of agricultural experiment stations of the United States; Dr. Henry Wallace of Iowa, Dean Woods of Minnesota and many other distinguished agricultural educators strongly urge the people of Nebraska not to make the mistake of separating the Agricultural college from the main university.

Experience of other States. The experiences of our sister states of Kansas, Iowa and Colorado, Oregon and Montana, with separate agricultural colleges should lead us to avoid making the mistakes these have made, for their resulting problems are most perplexing and the added expense to their taxpayers is great.

From data supplied by other institutions we find that it would cost over 60 per cent more to maintain the Agricultural college upon a separate campus than as an integral part of the main university.

The original cost of all the buildings upon the city campus, including the Temple building, was \$533,807. Their present estimated value, as reported to the legislature, was \$734,411, and other improvements, such as library equipment, tunnels, sewers, fence and sidewalks, \$121,300, making a total of \$855,711. And there has already been spent at the state farm \$882,000 for buildings, nearly all of which would be used, if consolidation were effected, for the benefit of all the colleges.

To acquire fourteen acres of land adjacent to the present city campus, exclusive of the streets, would cost the taxpayers about \$600,000. The business men and other residents of Lincoln who are desirous of keeping the university in its present location and of building upon the Agricultural college separate therefrom have made an offer to contribute, so that this land shall not cost the state to exceed \$600,000. The proposed method of raising the necessary amount, by taxing all property holders in Lincoln for such a purpose, is legally questionable and the bond presented to the legislative committee by certain business interests of Lincoln as a guarantee of the fulfillment of the undertaking has been held by the attorney general to be invalid.

Look into the Future. The university architects estimate that buildings to the value of about \$600,000 could and would enter into a permanent plan of development upon the city campus. However, the immediate cost of additional land and a new and duplicate heating plant and unnecessarily duplicated buildings which must be provided if the city campus is extended would more than equal the value of all the

good buildings now upon it and within a very few years the extra cost of duplication of teaching staff, doubled operations and administration required to run two separate institutions would pay the cost of all the abandoned buildings. For these reasons we strenuously maintain financial wisdom urges consolidation at the farm.

The new law building upon the city campus was built under specific direction of the legislature of 1911, containing consolidation on the farm, viz: "That in the event of consolidation it could be used for other state purposes."

The Board of Regents when adopting plans had in mind the use of this building to house the supreme court and to provide a home for the state law library.

The present library building would easily afford all necessary facilities for the State Historical society's collections. The other good buildings upon the city campus suitable for other state purposes could save great appropriations of money from time to time urged upon the legislature.

Trend Toward Dormitory System. From careful observation of other institutions we are certain that students of limited means would be greatly helped by consolidation at the state farm. The trend in all universities is toward the dormitory system. Many are now erecting buildings to house their students, thereby promoting better college spirit, more congenial and desirable social privileges and better economy.

The University of Minnesota houses and boards students for \$2.90 per week. The State University of Missouri for about \$3 per week and Michigan Agricultural College for a similar amount. We maintain that these advantages and economies vastly outweigh the privileges of remunerative employment in the city under present conditions and the new and much better conditions created will furnish an equally remunerative field for industrial and ambitious students.

Report of University Commission. We earnestly call your attention to the following reports, marked "A" and "B," attached to and made a part of this statement. "A," made to the governor by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, recommending consolidation at the state farm, and "B," made by a commission of university and agricultural college presidents invited by the farmers' congress of Nebraska to personally investigate this question in order that their conclusions might guide our voters. The gentlemen joining unanimously in this report are eminent educators and experts in university and agricultural college administration. They represent institutions both divided and consolidated and their earnest advice to us is to consolidate the university and agricultural college at the state farm.

Ex-Governor Hoch of Kansas, now a member of the State University and Agricultural college board of that state, who was prevented by sickness from serving as a member of this commission, but who visited Lincoln, however, and investigated the question of consolidation, writes this message: "Consolidate at the state farm, for as sure as fate if you do not you will have two universities within two and a half miles of each other."

The present of the "board" in Iowa having under its control the state university at Iowa City, and also the Agricultural college at Ames, prevented by other engagements from attending this conference, writes as a result of Iowa's experience with duplicated institutions: "Our problems here are so complex and perplexing that it seems almost impossible to remedy them."

Universities Forced to Move. A number of universities have been compelled to remove to another site on account of congested and unfortunate city environment. The State University of Washington at Seattle, Washington University at St. Louis, Columbia University in New York, have moved. Johns Hopkins University is now in the course of moving to the suburbs of Baltimore, and a proposed referendum vote is being held at Montana, Colorado and Oregon, by reason of separated institutions and the desire to avoid the troubles and extra cost entailed thereby.

Should Nebraska fail to consolidate its university and college of agriculture, it would be running counter to the experience of all the states where consolidated institutions exist, also those states whose agricultural college is separated, for the wise policy, as gained from experience, is to have them together.

We feel that there is one other matter that has a vital bearing upon this question of consolidation at the state farm, viz: The surroundings of the university are not at present conducive to the best moral welfare of the student body. Twenty of the twenty-five licensed saloons in Lincoln are located within about four blocks of the city campus and its proposed extensions. They and other things usually accompanying them constitute a menace to the best life of the boys and girls who attend the university, and we firmly believe that it is the duty of the state to utilize this opportunity to so locate the university as to protect the students from the temptations incident to a close contact with such things, for we know that many parents are deterred from sending their

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children to the state university on account of its unfortunate location. In conclusion, we most earnestly urge the voters to declare for consolidation at the state farm, for it will insure the development of the university upon wise educational and economic lines, providing equal advantage and opportunity for all classes of students, and enabling the institution for all time to render its full service to the state, avoiding the distractions, tremendous and continuous loss of money, which is absolutely unavoidable in the developing and operating of a separate agricultural college from the main university plant.

F. L. HALLER, GEORGE COUPLAND, Regents State University. Exhibit "A."

Report of the regents to his excellency, Chester H. Aldrich, governor of Nebraska:

"Sir: Supplementing their biennial report already presented, and especially that portion which refers to the policy of future extension, the board of regents of the University of Nebraska has the honor to submit as follows:

"Since submitting the report mentioned above, in recognition of the vast importance of the questions involved, and their vital relations to the present and future interests of the university and the taxpayers of the state, the regents decided to make a personal visit to several state universities. For this official investigation Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri were selected. In a private capacity various members of the board had visited the state institutions in many other states. The object of this official visit was to make a thorough investigation and gather such data as would enable the board, if possible, to state definitely which one of the three schemes of development outlined in the prior report—submitted to your excellency without definite recommendation—would be most advantageous for adoption by the state of Nebraska.

Definite Recommendations Made. After a very careful consideration of conditions in the several states mentioned, and after a most sincere desire and earnest effort on the part of the

board as a whole and of its individual members to unite upon a definite recommendation to be presented to you, and through you to the legislature, the board has arrived at the following conclusions: 1. That consolidation of all the university's activities upon one campus is the ideal policy.

2. Such consolidation tends to unity of activity, avoidance of duplication, minimum expense of administration and the general good of all the students in all the colleges.

3. The board has always very carefully considered the question of progress in higher agricultural education, and the evident hindrance of the students in the College of Agriculture, by reason of the physical separating of the two campuses has always been a source of regret. The board is most firmly convinced that this separation impedes the progress of the agricultural college and is a detriment to the students therein, and that should the colleges remain physically separated from the main university plant, it can never realize its full effectiveness and usefulness to the state.

4. This opinion was most forcibly endorsed by the eminent experts in university organization and agricultural development with whom the board consulted upon a recent trip. Without exception, these experts expressed the furthest opinion that the agricultural student is greatly benefited by contact with the larger university life, and that such contact is reciprocally beneficial to students in the other colleges.

Condition of Plant. 5. The present plant of the University of Nebraska, known as the downtown campus, is about twelve acres in extent. The board finds that the modern university plant occupies a campus ranging in extent from thirty to one hundred acres upwards, that outdoor laboratories are a necessary adjunct to university work, and that this demand is being enlarged so as to make extensive campus space increasingly necessary.

6. Since the state owns 200 acres at the farm campus, where the university's agricultural activities are situated and where considerable sums of money have already been expended the board recommends the bringing together of all the

university's activities excepting the medical college at Omaha, upon the said farm, and the development thereon of a complete university plant. This recommendation is made upon the condition that levy sufficient to raise within six years \$1,500,000, to be used in such development, be provided for. The need of rooms and laboratories to accommodate the present actual attendance at the university is so urgent that to attempt removal with a smaller sum would do the university incalculable harm.

By adopting such a policy the board believes that the state can erect a modern university plant, giving maximum efficiency at minimum cost, of which the state of Nebraska may be justly proud.

(Signed) C. S. ALLEN, V. G. LYFORD, GEORGE COUPLAND, C. B. ANDERSON, F. L. HALLER, W. G. WHITMORE, Regents of the State University.

The other exhibit consists of the conclusion of the committee of college presidents who reported on the matter.

Wants to Know How Much Money to Spend

Under the law, how much money does a candidate dare to spend in order to elect himself to office?

R. Beecher Howell wants to know. He spent considerable time searching the statutes in the office of District Court Clerk Smith. Failing to find the desired information, he appealed to Clerk Smith and to County Treasurer Ure to help him. Mr. Ure suggested that if he had more money for election purposes that he needed he would help him get rid of it.

Polks who doubted Friday's announcement that Howell has been "prevailed upon" to run for the gubernatorial nomination, were forced to believe it when they learned that he was looking up the law on campaign expenditures. He admitted that he was seeking the nomination for governor, and that he wanted to know the law on how much a candidate is allowed to spend in the campaign.

OREGON MAN SAYS HE WAS ROBBED IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, July 11.—Joseph Goodwin of Vale, Ore., sent a telegram from Omaha to detective headquarters here today, reporting that he was robbed of \$7,000 by four men, two of whom were armed with revolvers, in a south side hotel here before left Chicago last Thursday afternoon.

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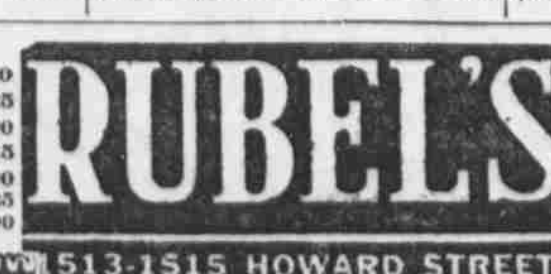
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