

(Communication)

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

To the Editor

The merchants of Lawrence have recently received a communication from a committee of the Chamber of Commerce, calling attention to the fact that the enrollment at Kansas State University this semester is about two hundred short of the same period last year, and attributing this regrettable decrease "to a lack of jobs to enable students to work their way through". To remedy this situation, it is stated an effort is being made to add \$20,000. to the Student Loan Endowment Fund, \$5,000. of which it is hoped will be contributed by the business interests of Lawrence.

In common with other home-owned enterprises we have always felt that we owed an obligation to support community and state institutional appeals. The object of the present drive is a highly meritorious one and deserving of our fullest support. We believe those in charge of the University will admit that Lawrence has always contributed its full quota to any effort that has been made in behalf of the University, both in time and funds. We are quite sure our home-owned business interests will not fail to measure up to their former record in this University drive.

But let us consider for a moment that Kansas home-owned and independent business institutions are being increasingly confronted with intensive competition of chain organizations of all kinds, and in all lines, and we feel that these chain organizations should also assume an increased share in the financial backing of community enterprises.

We hope those in charge of this undertaking are bringing pressure to bear on these outside chain interests to have them contribute as generous a share to this fund, in proportion to the extensive benefit derived by them in our community and their ability to pay, as compared with the limited resources of the home business man.

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Permit us to suggest that it might be appropriate to have a special committee to take up the matter with these outside chain interests, to solicit their local managers, and follow this up by appeals to the heads of these concerns at their general offices, and impress them with the urgent need of helping to keep Kansas students in school. Surely the chains will not feel justified in adopting as their motto the one Louie Bassetta did in the feature story in the current issue of Collier's entitled, "Something for Nothing". Privilege without responsibility is never justifiable, whether it is in business or social relationship.

For the enlightenment of the people, we suggest at the close of the campaign a complete list of the subscribers to this fund be published, showing in terms of dollars and cents whose generosity has made it possible for worthy