

Who'da Thought It?

PEOPLE often speak of "the law of supply and demand." Just what is it? Well, it's one of the relatively small number of laws that weren't passed by congress or the legislature, although there have been times when lawmakers seemed intent on repealing it.

A current government publication states that the law of demand is that "consumers will buy more at a low price than at a high price." It also asserts that the law of supply is that "farmers will produce more at high prices than at low prices."

IT seems that the government has been trying to figure out whether these laws, dating back far into history, are still effective. To do this, we find that "skilled mathematicians, economists and statisticians working in the government and elsewhere are using higher mathematics and the new electronic calculating machines to work on this problem." They discovered, apparently after many long and tedious hours, that the law of supply and demand still works in agriculture.

"Without exception," the report states, "they find that high prices of any of these commodities (wheat, cotton, corn), if maintained over a long enough period, will definitely raise production, and low prices, if maintained over a long enough period, will reduce production."

Possibly farmers have known this all along, having figured it out on the barn door with a stubby pencil. And now that it is reported in an official document perhaps the men who write our farm laws may come to accept the law of supply and demand as a reality.

State Is Big Employer

LEGISLATIVE leaders have called attention to the fact that Oklahoma has something like 27,000 state employees, making up the longest payroll list in the state. If each employee is married that means 54,000 people, plus their children if any, are dependent upon the state for their incomes.

Not many counties in Oklahoma have that much population and no industry in the state has so many workmen. The total reflects the numerous services and functions that have been put into effect, presumably at the request of taxpayers.

A special committee is being set up by the state house of representatives to review the state personnel situation, with mention made of a merit system. If this means that the committee will consider whether the job is worth doing in the first place and whether the person hired to do it is performing in manner worthy of the taxpayers' dollars it could result in some notable progress.

On the other hand, if the merit system refers merely to the question of whether the appointees and employees were on the right side of the political fence, there won't be any need to look for a great upheaval. Often in the past the merit system in politics has closely resembled the spoils system.

Laws Replace Laws

ONE of the main arguments used by advocates of prohibition repeal is that officers cannot enforce the present laws. People who want something stronger than 3.2 beer keep bootleggers in business and all the badge-and-pistol men in the state can't stop it. So the arguments go: If you can't enforce the law, repeal it, wets propose.

Although the incoming governor made some campaign references to strict enforcement of the prohibition laws until he can get them submitted to a vote, hopes are not high that this will be accomplished on a broad scale. Most attention now is being given to the controversial prohibition repeal and liquor control plans offered by successful gubernatorial candidate Edmondson and by unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate Miskovsky.

The two plans are alike in some respects and differ in others. One element that they have in common is the spelling out of numerous details concerning where, when, how and to whom liquor should be sold.

PROPOSALS specify that liquor shall not be sold in "open saloons," presumably meaning that strict control of the sales place will be provided. Sales to minors, insane or drunk persons would be prohibited, although officers and courts at present encounter many differences of opinion as to whether certain persons fit into these categories. What the courts don't know, the bartender must.

If prohibition is to be repealed, the people will want and are entitled to have laws regulating these phases of liquor sales. The question that arises is whether measures also will be taken to provide for their enforcement. If officers can't apply present laws in an effective manner, will they be able to do any better with a new set of laws dealing in more detail with the same problem of liquor sales, drunkenness and acts resulting from it?

Apparently convinced that enforcement of prohibition laws is a hopeless task, many officers seem to put forth little or no effort to make them work. Others try and some succeed pretty well. But if the same general attitude is taken toward liquor control laws—if and when prohibition is repealed—will control of legal sales be any more effective than bootlegger control has been? Will officers be permitted then, as now, to ignore or forget about their sworn duty to uphold and enforce the law?

Whither Drifting?

A NATIONAL survey reports that the "average TV family is watching 4 hours and 59 minutes a day," a sobering thought if true. With 35-hour work weeks and prolonged coffee breaks, it could be that many folks spend more time staring into the electronic tube than they do at work.

Snow Is Worth Money

H EAVY snowfall in Oklahoma always creates traffic hazards and inconvenience for many citizens. Sometimes incidents associated with these obvious facts obscure the value that a good snowfall has for the state. The recent one is appreciated by thousands of farmers and, because it means they may have more money to spend, it deserves applause from merchants as well.

The dry fall has retarded growth of winter pastures and many stock ponds have been getting low. Although the situation was not critical, it was becoming serious. Dry weather had caused failure of some fall-planted crops. The 12 inches of snow that fell in the panhandle is estimated to equal something like 2 inches of rainfall. That's pretty good rainfall for this time of year, when Oklahoma doesn't usually get good rains.

Furthermore, the snow has a high proportion of insoak and a small amount of runoff as it melts. It serves to stimulate a wheat crop as well as to provide moisture. While snow isn't a commodity that can be sold on the market, it is worth real money to Oklahoma in helping to produce crops that do bring in the cash.

Job With No Duties

O NCE the office of public weigher was a position in which most citizens had a concern. They bought or sold livestock, grain, coal and other commodities in bulk. To protect the public against dishonest dealers, provision was made for an impartial weigher.

Times have changed, and other reliable facilities have made the public weigher more or less an unnecessary official in many localities. Because the job pays no salary, sometimes nobody even runs for it. In Tulsa county, the office was vacant for 10 years and then last year a man entered a friend as a candidate "just for a joke." He was elected but says he won't take office because "that office should be abolished."

T HE somewhat ironical situation points up again the need for some updating of our electoral system. A shorter ballot, with fewer offices and perhaps more rigid requirements for qualification of candidates, is worth considering. It has been suggested many times in the past by people who helped to elect an assistant state mine inspector without knowing whether coal mines or salt mines were to be examined.

Public offices on the appointive list already include many that are far more vital to public welfare than these two examples. Some voters unable to learn or remember the facts about so many elective jobs have given up in disgust. And what citizen has not cast his ballot at one time or another for a candidate whose qualifications were completely unknown to him? Office seekers with well known names or names similar to those of famous men have taken advantage of this situation many times.

Perhaps several public offices might well be abolished entirely if a true evaluation of the list were made, and a number of others might be made appointive by responsible elected officials with no harm to public service.

Limit on Politics

S PEAKING from Florida, Governor-Elect J. Howard Edmondson has voiced objection to the limit of two terms for a president of the United States. By coincidence, the office he is about to enter is even more limited. Under present laws, he can't succeed himself even once.

Oklahoma's incoming governor says he has always opposed limitation on public offices, and undoubtedly many will agree with him. Especially in accord will be those who fill or hope to be chosen for high offices so limited.

Yet, many citizens consider the limitation on public offices to be a safeguard of the voters' rights. While it must be admitted that occasionally a capable, reliable officeholder might be prematurely removed, the advantage of being able to dispose speedily of undesirable incumbents has its merits. Were his predecessors not limited in their tenure of office, it is conceivable that Mr. Edmondson might not even have been elected governor. The opportunity that exists for building up a political machine through that office might have enabled some of the previous governors to remain in office for several terms.

C RITICS of the limitation on high public office in Oklahoma point to the "rotation system" followed in the past by certain individuals elected to the offices of secretary of state, state auditor and state treasurer. These, like the governorship, are limited to one term. Accordingly, the trio of incumbents has sometimes left one office to file as candidates for other jobs, resulting in what is called "key swapping." They take the jobs down the hall left vacant by their ineligible predecessors, who then move into their former positions. Objectors consider this "key swapping" technique to be a weakness of the law. Is it? The incumbents had to give up their offices and submit themselves to another vote of the people, who sometimes elected another candidate. Without the law limiting tenure, the incumbents could have pleaded "one term deserves another" and unseating undesirable ones might have been more difficult.

Another aspect of the limited tenure is that it encourages officeholders, in some instances at least, to push harder to complete their programs. In reviewing records of Oklahoma's governors, it is easy to find evidence that road programs, legislation and progressive institutional developments have been crowded to successful completion in a flurry of activity in the losing months of their terms. Those unfinished jobs would have made potent campaign thunder for a man eligible for re-election, and a campaign going on quite possibly might have been an inducement to postpone further progress until the next term.

T HE United States senate has established its organizational procedure on the principle of unlimited tenure. Such a premium is placed on seniority that a new senator can accomplish very little, regardless of his talents and his ability to represent his constituency. As a result, important senate committees often are dominated by infirm members who have been so long in Washington that they seem to have forgotten who sent them there and why. They are influential simply because they have been re-elected repeatedly, and this perhaps because voters recognize that a freshman senator might accomplish even less under the system used.

Public-spirited citizens can find abundant opportunities for service, whether they occupy high public offices or not, or for one, two or three terms. Through continued public service, Former President Herbert Hoover, for example, has achieved much and gained stature since he retired from office. A public office is an opportunity for great public service, but it is not the only means. And whether by limitation on tenure or otherwise, the people always should have in their hands ways to limit the power of officeholders.

Bargain Counter Matrimony

S OMETHING is out of kilter about Oklahoma's marriage and divorce laws. The fact that enterprising justices of the peace in Oklahoma border towns are able to attract lucrative matrimony-seeking patronage from adjoining states would indicate that our state's marriage laws are not too strict.

Yet, we find the paradox that divorce suits filed outnumber marriage licenses issued in the state's capital county, pointing toward a fairly easy way to end matrimony legally.

Is Oklahoma becoming a bargain counter for marriage and divorce? Laws which encourage fast and loose operations in such a serious business as marriage also would seem to encourage irresponsibility for maintenance of proper homes and upbringing of children born of such marriages.

C ERTAINLY, Oklahoma has enough deserted wives and dependent children on relief rolls. Perhaps nobody can say how many of these cases might be traced to impulsively planned and hastily performed weddings, but it is likely that a good many might be.

Public officials responsible for handling juvenile delinquents are well aware of the fact that the majority of their problem children come from broken homes. Easy divorce and irresponsible parents certainly are a principal factor in juvenile delinquency, which in turn tends to create more of the same as the delinquents themselves marry.

C ONDITIONS arise wherein certain marriages should be terminated for the good of the parties concerned and for the public interest. The law defines the grounds for divorce with the intention of drawing a line that will shut out personal whims and abuses. Lawmakers have never been entirely in agreement on where this line should be established, and courts do not always make the same application.

The real test of the laws comes in the results. When the number of divorces becomes extremely low and citizens go to other states for relief from intolerable marriage situations, the laws may be too strict. When the ratio of divorces to marriages is very high the laws may be too loose.

In Oklahoma, there seems to be no difficulty in getting either a quick marriage or an easy divorce. It is not desirable that our state become known as a bargain counter for either.

Speaking in General

C ONGRESSIONAL criticism of President Eisenhower's State of the Union message was expected, since the president is a Republican and most members of congress are Democrats. One of the points criticized was that the speech was "too general."

One senator referred to "his fine generalities" and another said "I approve generally" but added that the speech was "a little long on generalities."

Whether the speech was more or less general than those the president has previously delivered to congress and its rating as compared to those of other presidents are matters only for speculation. It is obvious, however, that if the president's remarks were as lacking in specification as the congressional criticism, the speaking match might be called a draw, generally speaking.

A Year of Culture

IN evaluating the progress made by Oklahoma City during the year just ended, the cultural advancements must be rated near the top. A series of notable contributions designed to enlarge the aesthetic life of the community add luster to the numerous economic developments that undergird the city's remarkable growth.

The new Oklahoma Art Center building, opened and dedicated as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. John Kirkpatrick is one of the highlights. The Civic Center beautification is another, with the gift of the '89er statue by B. D. Eddie and the 45th Division monument. The OCU statue given by Erick Lipbert extends this phase of the city's artistic life into another area.

GROUND BREAKING ceremonies were held for the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, and construction is due to begin in 1959. Another college was added to the metropolitan area with the opening of Central Christian college on a completely new campus. The Space Age conference held early in the year reflected the interest Oklahomans have in extra-terrestrial discoveries. These are only a few of the newer and larger contributions in this field. Numerous others of comparable scope are not listed simply because they represent expansion and improvements made by established institutions, some of which date back to statehood or before.

A great city cannot be built without a sound and solid foundation of economic assets—industries, water, transportation, business and manpower. Neither can such a city achieve its greatest success unless it also pays proper attention to its religious, educational, artistic and cultural life. It is to the credit of Oklahoma City's civic leaders that amid the impressive material progress in 1958 there is this evidence that the beautiful and the intangible qualities are not overlooked.

Farm Marketing Is City Business

AS a nation, we ate about \$60 billions worth of food in 1958 and about \$36 billions of that was in marketing charges. Farmers got something like \$24 billions, or 40 cents out of each food dollar spent by consumers. That doesn't include non-food items housewives buy at the supermarket and add into their grocery bills, of course.

Once most of agricultural research was devoted to improvement of production, but now more than 500 projects of the U. S. department of agriculture are devoted to marketing research. Since marketing charges account for about 60 percent of the money consumers paid for food in 1958, the USDA's agricultural marketing service is trying to find ways to get farm products to market in a better condition and at lower cost through the newest and most efficient methods and equipment.

ONE aspect of this work is the result of vertical integration, a trend in which an increasing number of farmers share their managerial decisions and risks in production and marketing with suppliers, processors, or distributors,—one or all. This trend has been changing the location of markets in which farmers sell, the grade and quality of products which can be marketed without price discount, the seasonality or farm marketings, and marketing customs.

Other marketing research projects studied in 1958 included pricing of eggs; consumer preferences in poultry; planning of wholesale market facilities in major cities; new methods of packing food products, such as dehydrofrozen peas; the changing market structure for livestock; and improved methods of processing cotton for export.

While all of these projects are charged to agriculture, and results should prove of benefit to farmers and stockmen, they are not exclusively rural. When marketing charges take 60 percent of the consumers food dollars, and most of the marketing employes are city people, then marketing research is of concern to them both as consumers and as a part of the agricultural industry.

The Neighbors

JAN. 14, 1959

It's Our Money

TWO time-tested planks for all sorts of election campaigns are to reduce taxes and to increase public spending. Because they're sure-fire vote-getters, candidates have been known to promise both even though they are contradictory objectives. Not much has been accomplished toward reducing taxes, but those elected have been notably successful in their promises to spend more money. Even those who didn't make any promises apparently have entered wholeheartedly into the plans for more and more federal and state spending.

A few days ago the federal budget director lamented the fact that people do not seem to realize that "what Washington spends comes out of their own pockets." He pointed out that voters reject about 40 percent of local bond issues because they are able to evaluate the need for and the cost of projects on that scale. They apparently lose this sense of value on a national scale. This has left the way open for costly programs the country may not need. The country would be better off if others were terminated.

IN his State of the Union message to congress, President Eisenhower said we can afford everything we need but we cannot afford one cent of waste. Latest bombers cost their weight in gold and rockets to shoot at the moon carry price tags to match. American people consider them necessary. Yet they constitute a hazard in that these costs and others running into a long string of digits upset the popular sense of values. Many individuals and communities feel that if they can get something out of Washington, it doesn't cost them anything and they're ahead. Others take the attitude that it does cost but since "everybody else is getting theirs, we'd better get ours." Neither is likely to give strong support to any efforts which might be made to stem excessive spending.

A Raise in Pay

MEN seek public office for various reasons, but possibly no man who ever was elected governor of Oklahoma sought the office for the salary alone. For some the salary was incidental to their desire for position, prestige and influence, as they are reported to have spent more than the salary in maintaining a proper gubernatorial standard of living.

The men who drew up Oklahoma's first set of laws probably saved the state more money than they knew when the provision was made that an incumbent could not benefit from a raise in salary made during his term. This limitation not only may have dampened the enthusiasm of the governors for such increases but observers say that legislators with gubernatorial aspirations have been cool to proposed raises as they might be disqualified from entering the office.

Oklahoma should provide a salary for the governor commensurate with the office, and hope that the men attracted will be of a caliber to justify it. The salary should not be so large, with other emoluments of office included, that it would be attractive in itself. Public service should be paramount.

Start Them Younger

IF any theme was apparent in the Frontiers of Science Foundation symposium on "Closing the Gap in Education," it was that American children must learn more and do it sooner.

Speakers stressed the fact that college graduates must know more basic science, more mathematics and have more background for higher education, but that it doesn't seem feasible to add another year to college courses. The time needed to acquire this extra knowledge couldn't well be spared from the productive life of the graduates. Then how? Provide more intensive study in the lower grades.

BECAUSE all citizens who achieve positions of leadership were said to be influential in international affairs, at least on a local basis, more training is needed on this subject. Dean Edward Barrett suggested that greater understanding of other peoples and their cultures start early in the public schools. "Don't underestimate the ability of the pupils to learn," he admonished. He said we cannot expect to find solutions to the problems unless we know and understand other citizens of the world.

In order to understand peoples of other nations and in order for them to understand us, we need to learn to speak their languages. It was brought out that our international negotiations had at times been sabotaged by communist interpreters, used because our diplomats could not speak the languages of other nations. Languages can be learned at any time, of course, but an early start has its advantages.

As citizens, we have the responsibility for providing the educational facilities and the teachers. But it looks as if the youngsters who expect to succeed in the space age will have to devote an increasing number of hours learning more vital things than ball scores and variations on the west TV theme.

Competition Is Catching Up

IN his keynote address at the Frontiers of Science symposium Roland V. Rodman declared that much of the economic, cultural and educational success of the United States might be attributed to the lack of technological progress in other countries. He pointed out that these nations now are making rapid gains and our nation must exert more effort to maintain its position. Competition is catching up with us.

Because of tremendous population growth, business activity resulting from it, and startling scientific advancements in electronics and extraterrestrial discoveries, we might be deluded by the expansion we see. Steady growth alone is not enough.

IN suggesting that Oklahoma "close the gap in education," Mr. Rodman posed the question: "If Oklahoma education funds were doubled, what would be the increment in education? Would highschool graduates know twice as much? Would we educate twice as many pupils, or hire twice as many teachers with advanced degrees, if we could find them?"

It is appropriate that Oklahoma stop and consider this subject, especially at a time when greatly increased appropriations for education are being sought. Money is necessary for expansion and improvement of the educational system, but greater expenditure of funds alone will not necessarily result in keeping abreast of the demands for greater knowledge.

Give and Gain

ALTHOUGH located some distance from ports of entry, Oklahoma Cityans have an unusual opportunity to gain knowledge of other nations and to contribute toward international understanding. The need for doing both was emphasized by speakers at the Frontiers of Science Foundation symposium last week.

There is a continual movement of students from many nations through the FAA center at Will Rogers field. The visitors study air traffic control and other subjects here for a few weeks, then return to important positions in their native lands.

Through a chamber of commerce committee, Oklahomans are encouraged to entertain these visitors in their homes. Youngsters, who may some day visit these lands as casually as their parents have visited other states, may thus be better prepared. They may even have a chance to try out skills in foreign languages they may be studying. More important, having these visitors in comfortable, happy Oklahoma homes can give them a more accurate and more favorable impression of the American way of life. Oklahomans who have traveled in countries around the world universally agree that this better impression is needed if we ever are to achieve world peace.

Pensions for Doing Nothing

THE idea of providing a pension for people too old or otherwise unable to work goes back into history a long while, but it has become a general practice only in this century and in certain countries. More recently pensions have been provided for retired and defeated congressmen when their legislating days are over.

Now comes a proposal to provide pensions to football players and it is getting serious consideration in the professional football leagues. It may become a reality.

With pensions for working, talking and playing, the next step may be a pension for doing nothing. Wonder why nobody ever suggested that before? It would make a swell plank for a political platform.

Putting Up a Front

DURING the 1958 election campaign the proponents of prohibition repeal made a great noise as if the state had switched overwhelmingly to favor legal liquor sales. The steam-roller tactics got a good start in the failure of the dry-sponsored county option referendum on beer and gathered momentum with the election of repeal-supporting candidates, some of whom had no dry opponents. The repeal boom sounded its loudest roar last November, but has lost much of its zip as repealists have split over how to run the liquor business and divide the profits.

Now the dry camp has come out with its brave claim that the projected referendum on repeal won't be too much of a battle. Leaders claim great strength and support that they say will overcome repeal threats, as has happened in all previous elections.

Possibly both sides could be putting up a front. There's good reason to believe that if and when an election is called on the question of repeal, it will be a fight-to-the-finish for both sides. And no matter who wins, the genuine dries will stay sober and the soaking wets will find some way to get drunk.

JAN. 27, 1959

Legislative Redistribution

OKLAHOMA may not need any more representatives in the state legislature but feeling is strong that the present number ought to be redistributed and possibly reduced. Even officeholders appear to be in favor of changes, providing the redistribution will add house or senate seats to their counties and that any reductions will be made in faraway places.

The Oklahomans for Constitutional Representation group charges that the legislature has never followed the legal formula to give each of the state's 77 counties as nearly equal as possible representation in both houses of the legislature. Because the present plan has not been made to work, at least three new plans are advanced. Presumably each proposes to adjust inequities in the proportion of the state's population represented by the vote of one member. They suggest houses consisting of 100, or 125, or 154 members, all taking note of the growth in Oklahoma's urban and metropolitan areas, with a corresponding decline in farms and ranches.

BECAUSE about one-third of the state's population now lives in the five or six most densely populated counties, proposed adjustments are aimed at giving these counties that proportion of legislative seats. This must mean the combination of districts in sparsely settled areas if a larger legislature is to be avoided. The objection voiced is that voters in those thinly populated areas already are far from their representatives and that greater mileage would further isolate them from contact with legislators. Insofar as casual meetings are concerned, that might be true, but with today's communications and transportation facilities, it is difficult for a legislator to avoid contact with constituent group that has an issue to discuss with him.

For that matter, it is possible that even in the most thinly settled and widely separated districts more voters are personally acquainted with their representatives than in the denser urban areas.

If the legislature is to agree upon a reapportionment plan that is fair to all, it must be based upon the premise that it is in the best interests of the entire state. Particularly is this true for those whose districts may be enlarged or whose posts may be eliminated.

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the local news published herein.

JAN. 29, 1959

Investment in Men

EVERY word of the name "Young Men's Christian Association" has a pleasant connotation. Undoubtedly that is one reason that activities connected with it find such widespread appeal among Oklahoma City's civic leaders.

The current campaign for capital funds to expand the program has enlisted many of the city's busiest business men as active workers and every citizen will have an opportunity to contribute what he can to this worthwhile movement.

The generous support that Oklahoma City has given to its YMCA program in the past has enabled it to move into the fore in facilities and achievements. Not only has the work been helpful in interesting boys in constructive and worthwhile activities, but it also has raised the vision of thousands of boys to new horizons of opportunity and accomplishment.

THE central YMCA building is magnificent and it serves the community in numerous ways. However, it cannot accommodate all of the boys engaged in YMCA activities. Even if it could, the obstacles of distance, time and transportation would prevent such widespread participation at one site. The projected expansion program, with branches in several outlying locations, will help co-ordinate the area functions and make the YMCA program more effective the year around.

The YMCA is a useful institution that serves boys from homes of all economic levels. Modern urban homes provide few chores to occupy growing boys and job opportunities are limited. Schoolwork and TV are not adequate for providing physical exercise. Without organized leadership and guidance, recreational activities often go astray.

Oklahoma Cityans who contribute to the building program of the YMCA will be helping to bring the worthwhile program of this fine institution closer to their own homes. It is an investment in tomorrow's men.

Testing for Strength

THE senate's rejection of a Tulsa Republican nominated to serve on the highway commission has more significance than the appointment of a single individual to office. It is a test of power between the governor and the senate that will have a bearing upon other issues as the legislature proceeds. The senate wants to know if it has the strength to push through its own ideas.

It's said that the senate twice refused to approve the nominee because he, as an editor, had criticized senators and because he was a Republican. None the less few senators would stand up to say they voted against a nominee because he had exercised freedom of the press or because he was the only representative of a minority party on a large commission.

THE senate is within its province to decline approval of nominees the body does not consider suitable. Some of the furor occurs because the senate so seldom voices serious objection to appointees. "Senatorial courtesy" and political expediency have plainly been effective influences in approval of many nominees in previous administrations.

No question seems to be raised; either, about the authority of the new governor to make the appointments, including the sweeping change in the state highway commission. The people stamped their approval of his proposal to replace the "old guard" in state politics. Some comment resulted but probably no one was surprised by the appointment of faithful campaigners, fraternity brothers, fellow citizens and school mates to various offices. Such affiliations do not necessarily qualify or disqualify the persons for their new offices.

Up to this time, only routine measures and a few with relatively minor conflicts of opinion have been acted upon by the legislature. Major clashes will arise when school and road appropriations bills come up and there is the eventual showdown on prohibition repeal proposals. By making an issue of such an item as a highway commission appointment, both the senate and the governor have chosen to test their strength. The outcome may not be an absolute indication of which has the upper hand but they will know better where to apply the pressure when it is needed.

Changing Livestock Business

ONE of the great industrial developments that helped establish Oklahoma City was the building of the major packing plants in 1910. As an important terminal market for livestock, Oklahoma City prospered. It still benefits in a great way from the fact that the Oklahoma National Stockyards is consistently among the top ten in the nation.

The terminal market has not been an unchanging and unchangeable thing, however. Once most of the livestock moved in by rail; now practically all of it comes by truck, as one example. Facilities have been improved and modernized from time to time, and more progress lies ahead.

HOWEVER, a significant change is taking place that should not go unnoticed. It is the decentralization of livestock marketing as other methods of moving livestock spring up. One way is the local livestock auction market, of which Oklahoma has something like 100 and the nation over 2,300. Some are very small, while others handle large numbers of animals. Livestock thus sold sometimes moves through terminal markets; sometimes not.

Another way of decentralization is through direct buying of livestock from producers by packers and food chains. Still another is a growing system of contract farming in which production is integrated with marketing in such a way that free trading at selling time is limited or stopped. These latter methods are not yet extensive in Oklahoma, but could become important if they should prove profitable.

CHICAGO, once famous as "hog butcher to the world," now is in decline. The Chicago Union Stockyards once employed 20,000 people but now hires only about 9,000. Perhaps these changes were inevitable. In any case they took place because of changing conditions in the livestock marketing business.

Oklahoma City and Oklahoma not only have a chance to maintain their position in the livestock marketing industry but this position could be enlarged and expanded. It won't just happen, though. The combined efforts of stockmen, marketers, packers and business leaders will be needed to prepare for a future in keeping with rapid developments taking place in other lines. Oklahoma City pitched in to make this a great marketing center. Oklahoma City can and should act to see that it continues to be one.