

They're No. 1, Kamm Says of Students

IT IS axiomatic that people might get along better if they understood one another better. The same applies to administrators, faculty and students in colleges and universities.

A significant contribution to help further such understanding has been published by Dr. Robert B. Kamm of Stillwater, former president of Oklahoma State University. The title, "They're No. One!" refers to students, not athletic teams.

The book consists of 180 short essays, arranged in the form of a university president's diary covering two semesters. The essays present impressions, observations, excerpts from speeches, experiences and happenings selected from Kamm's career as a teacher, counselor, dean or president of both private and public institutions.

It is more than a handbook for administrators. Principles discussed apply broadly in many fields, and the book may have special usefulness for students going away to college and their parents.

"Higher education is a dynamic

venture to be shared in with enthusiasm and integrity by both faculty and students, as they teach and learn that which is known, seek for that which is unknown, share and apply knowledge in relation to off-campus needs, and strive to achieve those qualities of mind and spirit which give decision and high purpose to life," Kamm observes.

"Going away to college represents for most young men and women a healthy and a normal diminishing of ties with home," he says, adding emphatically that it should not be a complete break.

"Today's students 'hit the books' harder and longer than did their predecessors," the author states, also pointing out that "Today's students are keenly aware of the world around them, and a person who conceives of a campus community as 'halls of ivy' or 'the ivory tower' has not been in recent contact with university life."

Concerning the American concept of separation of Church and State, Kamm wrote: "Our forefathers acted wisely in assuring that neither would control the other. What they

did say, however, was that those who are parts of a State endeavor (students at a state institution of higher learning, for example), should not be denied the opportunity to manifest their own religious faith (each according to his or her own beliefs) and to learn and to grow spiritually while students."

Kamm stressed quality in education, summarizing: "To serve our fellowmen and women is the high and great privilege of every one of us who teach, counsel and administer. To serve others in love, with respect to them as individuals, to the end that they might be happy and achieve their full dignity is to honor God."

"Our task as educators is more than discovering and sharing knowledge. It is more than the development of skills — important as both knowledge and skills are," Kamm emphasized in another place. "Our concern must be for the total student and for each student's total development — physically, emotionally, socially, culturally, morally and spiritually, as well as academically."