

Put it on 'em Parter,
Send back up

Dec 1st 1925

EIGHT

THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

E. K. Gaylord, Editor

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THE AMERICAN'S CREED

"I believe in the United States of America as
government of the people, by the people, for
the people; whose just powers are derived from
the consent of the governed; a democracy in a
republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign
states; a perfect union, one and inseparable,
established upon those principles of freedom,
equality, justice and humanity for which American
patriots gave their lives and fortunes. I,
therefore believe it my duty to my country to
love it; to support its constitution; to obey its
laws; to respect its flag, and to defend it against
all enemies."

State

A Meaningless Gesture

THE Saturday night appeal of the Texas governor for strict and resolute law enforcement would have possessed a more consistent ring had it not been preceded just seventy-two hours by the release from prison of 105 convicted criminals. On Wednesday night more than 100 convicts, including twenty-seven murderous felons, were pardoned or paroled by the same executive that made Saturday night notable by demanding a rigorous enforcement of the law.

A law-observing and law-respecting executive would command more respect and better attention when offering a \$500 reward for the conviction of criminals. One who releases felons nearly as fast as they can be caught and convicted can command no respect at all. Why not keep the prisons filled with those already convicted instead of paying out good money to refill prisons all but emptied by executive dereliction? Why not preserve both the cash of the state and public respect for law by realizing that law enforcement, like charity, begins exceedingly close to home?

Two years ago an Oklahoma executive was frantically shouting from the Tulsa housetops "enforce the law" while at the same time releasing by the score men convicted of infamous crimes. His inconsistency contributed powerfully to his own undoing. The people of Oklahoma understood, just like the people of Texas will understand, that before a governor can obtain universal respect for law he must respect the law himself.

Well Done

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