

In Quest of a President

Next August Dr. Elmer Ellis steps down as president of the University System shortly after reaching 65, the retirement age for administrative officers of the University. The task of finding a successor to President Ellis got under way last June when the Board of Curators named a screening committee to make recommendations to the Board. Making up the committee are three Curators, a representative of the alumni of the University, and a representative of the faculty.

Robert Neill of St. Louis, who is president of the Curators, is serving as chairman of the committee. Other Curators in the screening group are Oliver B. Ferguson of Fredericktown and William H. Billings of Kennett. Judge James A. Finch, Jr., a Justice of the Supreme Court of Missouri, is representing the alumni. Dr. A. G. Unklesbay, professor of geology, represents the faculty. Judge Finch is a former president of the Board of Curators, and Dr. Unklesbay is chairman of the University System Committee on Retirement and Staff Benefits.

The screening committee is wide open to suggestions on possible candidates. In fact, it invites members of the faculty, alumni and other friends of the University to submit names for the committee to consider. Suggestions should be submitted in writing to the chairman (Mr. Neill's address is 705 Olive St., St. Louis) or any other member of the University of Missouri Screening Committee.

Dr. Ellis became the thirteenth president of the University on April 16, 1955, after serving several months as acting president. He had been Dean of the Faculty of the College of Arts and Science since 1946. He joined the faculty in 1930 as assistant professor of history, and later advanced to professor of history, a title he still holds.

During his administration as

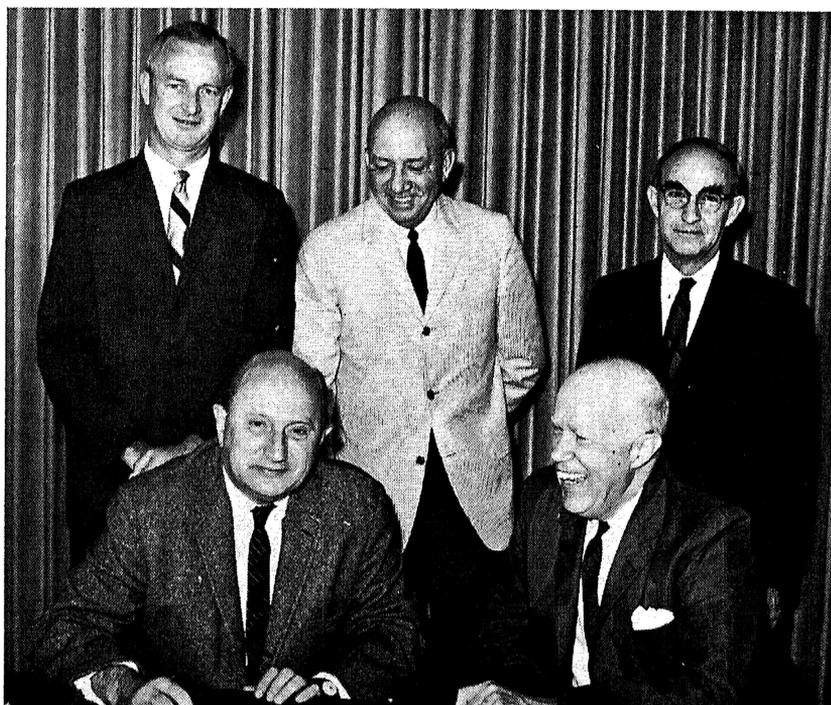
president, the University has developed into a statewide University System with major campuses at Rolla, Kansas City, and St. Louis as well as at Columbia. Each campus is under a chancellor responsible to the president. The four campuses had a combined total enrollment of more than 27,000 students last year.

Dr. Ellis was president of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges in 1963-64, and was a member of the Board of Foreign Scholarships of the U. S. Department of State in 1958-1962.

He is president of the Board of directors of the Harry S. Truman Library Institute for National and International Affairs, in Independence, Mo.; secretary of the American Council on Education; and

president of the National Commission on Accrediting. Other leadership positions held by Dr. Ellis include membership on the President's Board of the William Rockhill Nelson Trust of Kansas City as well as the executive committee of the Missouri School of Religion in Columbia. He is co-chairman of the Missouri Commission for Education Beyond the High School. Formerly president of the Missouri Association of State Universities, he also helped organize and served as president of the Mid-America Association of State Universities.

During World War II, Dr. Ellis served in the Historical Branch, Department General Staff of the U. S. Army. He held the rank of major and was chairman of the Advisory Committee on the History of the U. S. Army, 1955-59.



These men will be screening possible candidates for the position of president of the University System. Chairman of the Board of Curators' committee is Robert Neil, seated at left, who is president of the Curators. Next to him is Judge James A. Finch, Jr. Standing, from left, are William H. Billings, Oliver B. Ferguson, and Prof. A. G. Unklesbay. The committee welcomes names to be considered for the position to be filled after Dr. Elmer Ellis' retirement next August.