



*Irving Dilliard, left, spoke on "What the Library Owes the Bill of Rights." The famed newspaperman visits with a former St. Louis Post-Dispatch colleague, Poet John G. Neihardt of the University.*



*One section of the large group attending the dinner. Perhaps the reader will recognize State Senator Basey Vanlandingham and Dr. Frank Luther Mott.*



*Dr. Lewis Atherton, who pioneered Friends organization.*



*Haskell Holman, state auditor, was among the dinner guests.*



*W. F. Woodruff, loyal backer of Friends of the Library.*

## Friends of the Library Annual Dinner

The vital role of books in modern life was stressed by the two featured speakers at the Friends of the University of Missouri Library annual dinner held on April 6. Irving Dilliard told the audience in Memorial Student Union that "libraries have the foremost responsibility for preserving those freedoms of individual American citizens designated in the constitutional Bill of Rights." Dr. Eugene Holt Wilson, relating the general alarm of book-minded people over the decline of reading, said that "books may be the one free medium left through which modern man can escape the pressure of contemporary living."

Mr. Dilliard, author and lecturer, for 33 years was on the staff of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch where he was editorial page director when he retired in 1960; he now lives in Collinsville, Ill., where he serves as president of the Memorial Library. Dr. Wilson is vice-president of the University of Colorado where he formerly was Director of Libraries and professor of library science. The speakers were introduced by University President Elmer Ellis. Presiding at the dinner was T. Hartley Pollock of St. Louis, president of the Friends of the Library. Other program participants included Dr. William H. Peden, professor of English, and Dr. Richard S. Brownlee, director, State Historical Society of Missouri.

The dinner climaxed a day of activities for the Friends: their annual meeting, a tour of libraries, and a reception at the President's House. Numerous Missouri notables were among the guests.

Photos by George W. Gardner



*Dr. Eugene Wilson spoke on "Reading for Life."*



*President T. Hartley Pollock of the Friends of the Library, Irving Dilliard, Vice President Eugene Wilson of the University of Colorado, and President Elmer Ellis of the University of Missouri.*