

Move Made To Clear Way For Hiring Kentucky's Bryant

Arkansas Legislature Proposes To Eliminate Athletic Director

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 15—UP—State lawmakers stepped into the embroiled University of Arkansas athletic situation Monday with the idea of abolishing the office of athletic director at the Fayetteville school to help entice Kentucky Coach Paul Bryant.

The Arkansas legislative council voted 8 to 4 to adopt a motion to eliminate the post now held by John Barnhill after its proposer stated that retention of Barnhill might mean that Bryant would not take the head coaching job vacated when Otis Douglas resigned.

The council's action, which is subject to approval of the full legislature when that body convenes next month, was the latest chapter in an increasingly tense furor surrounding the university's athletic program.

The motion, a proposed amendment to a \$4.8 million budget which the council is charged with drawing up for the university, was presented by State Rep. Paul Van Dalsem of Perry county, who charged that Barnhill's work as athletic director had caused strife on the campus.

Blamed Barnhill

"Several interested persons, and several football players have told

me that Barnhill is at the root of the troubles we are having with our athletic program," Van Dalsem said. "If we don't do something about it, we may not be able to get Bryant to come to Arkansas."

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JOHN BARNHILL
Cut By 'Razorbacks'

Arkansas teams have failed miserably to live up to the potential apparent from the manpower on the rosters the past few seasons and most observers have long blamed "lack of spirit, or will to win" as the main cause.

Douglas, who several times said he was at a loss to explain the "ups and downs" of his squad, resigned in disgust last month at the termination of his three-year contract.

Before that, Barnhill had been head coach with much the same results after his opening season in 1946 when Arkansas shared the Southwest Conference championship.

Bryant last week conferred with university officials and with an advisory committee charged with the job of finding Douglas' successor. After the conferences, a committee spokesman inferred strongly that "the job is Bryant's—if he wants it."

Bryant Wants Full Control

Bryant's terms were said to include the stipulation that he have sole control of the football program and not be subservient to an athletic director. This was understood to be a matter of principle.

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