

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

KARL BRANDT (1899 – 1975)

Karl Brandt, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the Food Research Institute at Stanford University, died on July 8, 1975, at the age of 76.

Dr. Brandt was born at Essen, Germany, on January 9, 1899. He graduated from Wurttemberg State College of Agriculture in 1921 and received the Doctorate in Agriculture from the University of Berlin in 1926. In 1929 he was appointed Professor of Agriculture in the University of Berlin and Director of the Institute for Agricultural Market Research. From 1925 to 1927 he served as Chief Appraiser and Vice-President of the German Farm Tenants' Bank. He was Agricultural Economic Advisor to the President of the German Short-term Farm Credit Administration in 1928-29 and continued to serve as a member of that organization's Board of Trustees until 1933. He was also a member of a board of experts of the German Bank of Industrial Obligations from 1929 to 1933.

Political considerations dictated the most important step in Dr. Brandt's career when, upon the seizure of power by Hitler, he left Nazi Germany in 1933 to take up residence in the United States as Professor of Agricultural Economics in the Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Sciences in the New School for Social Research in New York.

Karl Brandt was unequivocal in his stand against the Nazis, and he devoted much of his energy in the 1930s to bringing German friends and scholars to the United States. He was trusted by leaders of the anti-Nazi German underground and was consulted in greatest secrecy by General William O. Donovan, Head of the United States Office of Strategic Services, when the last of a series of offers from the German underground was received in 1944. Years later he received the German Order of Merit, first class with star, from West Germany.

In 1938 Dr. Brandt was appointed Professor of Agricultural Economics at the Food Research Institute, Associate Director in 1952, and Director from 1962 to 1964. Thereafter, until he withdrew from active professional life, he served as a senior research fellow in the Hoover Institution.

Karl Brandt was an eminently practical man, with much experience in the realities of social and political life. As a young man, he investigated the milk supply of Berlin, ran a farmers' cooperative, and arbitrated tenancy cases. He served as an adviser to four German banks, and as organizer of cooperative credit facilities. After coming to the United States he served at various times as a consultant to the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, various foreign governments, and philanthropic foundations. From 1958 to 1961 he was a member of President Eisenhower's Council of Economic Advisors.

Dr. Brandt was much sought after as a public lecturer, and his vigorous and forthright discussions of contemporary political and economic questions are well remembered by businessmen and farmers, academics and statesmen throughout the western world. His writings appeared as books, pamphlets, and articles in professional journals and also in more popular

journals and magazines. He was as well known to the general public as he was to his professional colleagues.

During the period when Brandt was at the Food Research Institute he published more than 120 articles on a range of topics embracing most economic aspects of farming, the economics of trade and production of fats and oils, wartime management of food and agriculture, and the agricultural economies of the United States, Western Europe, Algeria, the Belgian Congo, Colombia, Malaysia, and Uruguay. In 1939 he was interested in long-term shifts in human and natural resources; in 1941 he was writing about food as a political weapon; in 1945 he was concerned with the reconstruction of world agriculture; in 1954 he wrote about strategies for agricultural development with special attention to the Third World; and in the 1960s he was concerned about stability and change in the world economic order. His books included *The German Fat Plan and Its Economic Setting* (1938), *The Reconstruction of World Agriculture* (1945), and *The Management of Agriculture and Food in the German Occupied and Other Areas of Fortress Europe* (1953).

Dr. Brandt was elected President of the Western Farm Economics Association in 1943-44 and of the American Farm Economic Association in 1955-56. In 1964 he became a Fellow of the American Farm Economic Association. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Heidelberg and the Justus von Liebig Prize by the University of Kiel. He was the only American member of the French Academy of Agriculture and was one of the few persons of German birth ever to receive the Order of Merit, France's highest award for civil service.

Karl Brandt was a tower of energy, driven by a great love of personal freedom and a tremendous faith in the virtues of societies made up of free men. He was a charter member—and a devoted one—of the Mont Pelerin Society and spent much of his effort during his later years in defense of the free enterprise system. Even in his sixties he had more stamina—sheer physical staying power—and greater enthusiasm about life than many men thirty years younger. He could drive in two days from Stanford to Estes Park, Colorado, and be eager to explore the town an hour after he arrived. Along the way he would have interviewed shopkeepers and restaurant operators, learning enough about their businesses in ten or fifteen minutes to increase his tremendous knowledge of the financial and technical intricacies of contemporary economic life.

Brandt had a remarkable working understanding of American society based on keen observation, a retentive memory, and an understanding of people. He was impressed by "the subconscious memory of all people in Western industrial society that all of them originally came from the farm." At the same time that he emphasized the human and the personal in his analysis of contemporary affairs, he believed firmly that "economics must proceed from mingled empirical study and statement of hypotheses to testing of hypotheses and construction of theory" if history was to be understood.

W. Glenn Campbell
Walter P. Falcon
William O. Jones, Chairman