

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### PHILIP W. BUCK (1900 – 1985)

Philip W. Buck, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, died on December 6, 1985 after only a few days illness. He was a specialist in comparative government with a particular interest in Great Britain, served as Executive Head of the Political Science Department, and for many years was chairman of the Rhodes Scholar Selection Department Committee at Stanford. He first came to Stanford in 1934 and, except for a brief period after his retirement in 1965, he lived here for 51 years.

Professor Buck was born in Rapid City, South Dakota, in 1900 but grew up in Idaho. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Idaho in 1923 where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In the same year he was appointed Rhodes Scholar, and in 1926 was awarded a first class honors degree from Oxford in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Returning to the United States he was appointed Assistant Professor of History and Government at Mills College where, at times, he also served as chairman of the department. During much of his tenure at Mills (1926-1934) he also pursued graduate work at the University of California - Berkeley where he was awarded his doctorate in political science in 1933.

In 1934 Phil accepted a reduction in rank and salary to come to Stanford as Instructor in Political Science. At Stanford his advancement was meteoric and in a brief seven years he was promoted through the ranks to Professor of Political Science in 1941. During the Second World War he was Assistant Director of the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) and Director of Advanced European Area and Language Training at Stanford. From 1947 through 1951 he was Executive Head of the Political Science Department. Of greater importance to Phil was his chairmanship of the Committee on Rhodes Scholarships. After a long period in which Stanford had been unsuccessful in the Rhodes competition, President Wilbur appointed Phil to the position with the express charge to return Stanford to the winning column. That he was able to do so in his first year as chairman was always a source of pride and gratification to Phil, and he continued in this post well into the administration of President Sterling.

Phil's standing as a scholar was owed especially to his study, The Politics of Mercantilism (1942). In this study he revealed the surprising degree to which the mercantilist theorists of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries accepted uncritically the extension of state power beyond the political to the economic realm and the vesting of this power entirely in the executive branch. Mercantilist writers, he found, fully appreciated the interdependence of political and economic phenomena, but their attention was focused almost entirely on enhancement of the power of the state through economic aggrandizement at the expense of other states. Neglected in their writings was any notice of the controversy which raged in their times over issues such as the relations between the throne and Parliament or the dangers to human liberty derived from placing nearly all power in the hands of the government. In a final chapter he was able to draw a parallel between the mercantilist state and the new communist and fascist regimes in Europe. The book evoked great interest and was widely and favorably reviewed.

Subsequently he co-authored The Governments of Foreign Powers (1947) which was widely adopted as a text and drew his name to the attention of an even wider segment of the profession. This was followed in 1957 by The Control of Foreign Relations in Modern Nations, a study of the foreign policy-making process in several countries, which Phil co-edited and to which he contributed the chapter on the United Kingdom. Subsequently he published Amateurs and Professionals in British Politics, 1918-1959, in which he traced the careers of 7500 candidates who stood for election to Parliament between 1918 and 1959. This study cast much light on the record of successes and failures, the number of contests fought by successful and unsuccessful candidates, the length of service of politicians who rose to the top, and the circumstances of withdrawal from politics of those who had entered the political arena. In retirement he remained active and edited and wrote a long introduction to How Conservatives Think, published by Penguin in 1975. It dealt with British conservative thought and was one more expression of his long interest in British culture and politics.

To know Phil Buck was to know that his experience as a Rhodes Scholar made him a dedicated Anglophile. Throughout his life he cherished memories of his upbringing in Idaho and of his education at the University of Idaho. But Oxford University in the aftermath of the First World War was a place of infinite intellectual and artistic excitement. Among Phil's contemporaries there were Evelyn Waugh, Harold Acton, Anthony Powell and Aldous Huxley, and it is safe to say that his experience there more than anything else shaped the intellectual interests and enthusiasm of his adulthood. He enjoyed the patronage of Reginald Lennard of Wadham College and was greatly influenced by A. D. Lindsay at Balliol. He played tennis with his college six and throughout his three years there he was an active and enthusiastic participant in debate at the Oxford Union. At Oxford, too, he was able to further his interests in music and theater and he was often in London to enjoy its advantages. Finally, it was at Oxford that Phil met and married Barbara Jacobs to whom he remained devoted for the remainder of his life. Hence it was no accident that Phil spent most of his sabbatical leaves in England and did much of his research there. And it was a source of great satisfaction to Phil that a son-in-law, a daughter, and two grandchildren have all been prominent in the British theater.

He is survived by his wife and three daughters, Priscilla Alfandre of Washington, D.C., Olwen Wymark of London, and Constance Kuruppu of Palo Alto, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

His colleagues will remember Phil for his many contributions to the department, for his willingness to lecture at 8:00 a.m. over the several decades when hard-hearted Registrars insisted that every department offer one course at that hour, and more especially for his unselfishness and the openness he invariably displayed in his dealings with us. He never sought to advance his own interests at the expense of others. His family and friends, as well as his colleagues, will particularly remember Phil for his unfailing optimism and good humor. In traveling across the country he enthused about the scenery and the people he met. He shared with others his love for music and the theater. It was typical of Phil that, while he was uncompromising in his scholarship, he never let a lack of native ability interfere with the enjoyment of things he liked to do. As a boy he and his father decided that Phil should take up the violin. But in their small town in Idaho there was neither a dealer nor a violin teacher. Undaunted, Phil sent \$23.50 to Montgomery Ward for a mail-order violin and instruction book. The results were those one would expect. As late as his years as a graduate student, friends were gently correcting the way he held his instrument, and in later years he was receiving advice from neighbors and from his

daughters when they returned from their own violin lessons. The violin was one of his major loves. And until the week of his death he regularly carried his instrument (now worth several hundred dollars) to the apartment of a neighbor who accompanied him as he played. He was a friend and an example to all of us and he will be sorely missed.

Kurt Steiner

Robert A. Walker

Hubert Marshall (chair)