

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### LELAND T. CHAPIN (1903 – 1962)

Leland Taylor Chapin was born in Portland, Oregon, August 21, 1903. Dr. Chapin became self-supporting at the age of fourteen and worked his way through high school and Willamette University. At Willamette, he won awards in forensics and football and was selected as Senior Scholar in Philosophy in 1925. Immediately after graduation from Willamette University, he sailed to Canton, China, where he taught English and Speech from 1925 until 1928. He also served as a reporter for the Associated Press. In December, 1928, he was appointed Director of Forensics at Willamette University, a post he resigned in June, 1929, to come to Stanford as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of English in September, 1929. He secured leaves of absence from Stanford on several occasions and earned the Master's Degree in Political Science at the University of Oregon, a Master's Degree in International Relations at Columbia University, and the Ph.D. at the University of Edinburgh in 1938.

During World War II, he served as a Military Government Officer in the U. S. Navy on the Atoll of Majuro.

His publications included many articles, published in Great Britain and the United States, among which were "The Campaign Speeches of Upton Sinclair," in The Quarterly Journal of Speech, "The British Background of Judicial Review" in the Edinburgh University Ph.D. Series, "The Reconstitution of the American Supreme Court" in the Scots Law Times, "Propaganda. The Proper Point of View" in the Hawaiian Educational Review, and "American Interest in the Chair of Rhetoric and English Literature in the University of Edinburgh," University of Edinburgh Journal. At the time of his death he had in preparation a definitive work, The History of Rhetoric and Eloquence in Scotland.

Dr. Chapin was also well known for his work in the national and international areas of public address. His was a recognized authority in the Speech Association of America, and he was President of the Pacific Forensic League, President of the San Francisco Chapter of the English Speaking Union. At Stanford he was President of the Philological Society and President of the Stanford Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

A signal honor was his in 1947 when he was given the Freedom of Stirling, Scotland, and was made an honorary Burgess of the Borough.

Leland Chapin was deeply committed to his students, There was honor in his relationship with them. He saw them as human beings who needed guidance, and he gladly taught. Two generations of Stanford students were instructed by Dr. Chapin, and he estimated that he had heard over thirty-five thousand speeches. The challenge for him was the assistance he could give to the student to find himself and his innate capacity through the power of speech and communication. Many of his former debaters became distinguished statesmen, scholars and business executives.

He is survived by his wife, Lilian Christian Macpherson Chapin, a native of Edinburgh, and one son, Norman Macpherson Chapin. To them, we of the Academic Council express our sorrow and extend our deepest sympathy.

Norman D. Philbrick, Chairman  
Jon Ericson  
Nicholas J. Hoff