

## **MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

### **EDWIN A. COTTRELL (1881 - 1953)**

Edwin Angell Cottrell, Professor of Political Science, Emeritus, and former Chairman of the Executive Committee of the School of Social Sciences, died after a brief illness in Los Angeles on 10 February 1953.

He was born in Newport, Rhode Island, on 14 December 1881. His ancestry was the best that New England had to offer. He was named for a relative, James Burrill Angell, the distinguished educator and publicist. From boyhood he indicated deep interest in public affairs, which was stimulated by his father who was active in civic matters and served as mayor of Newport. His preparatory education was received at the Williston Academy, after which he spent one year at Brown University before entering the Army Corps of Engineers in a civilian capacity. He was graduated from Swarthmore College with the class of 1907. There a member of the faculty, the late Robert C. Brooks, urged him to enter teaching and was instrumental in obtaining for him an instructorship at the Pennsylvania State College. He entered Harvard for graduate study in 1911; his work was directed largely by Professors W.B. Munro and Arthur N. Holcombe. From 1913 to 1917, he was lecturer in Government at Wellesley College, and gained valuable experience as Secretary of the Boston Budget Commission.

His chief interest was early directed toward the field of Public Administration which was rapidly assuming great importance. He was one of the first to realize the significance of this area of government and to devote his attention to the pressing problems of state and of local administration. Recognizing his competence and experience, the Ohio State University appointed him in 1917 Professor of Political Science and Director of the Bureau of Governmental Research. Two years later, the late Victor J. West and he became cofounders of the Department of Political Science at Stanford. For 28 years he served with devotion and distinction as Professor of Political Science; from 1927 to 1945 he was executive head of the department. Its successful development in organization, in personnel, and in achievement was due, in large measure, to his planning and direction. The use of the functional method in teaching and the division of the subject matter into six separate fields received much favorable comment from political scientists in other institutions. The growth of the department was constant, and many of its graduates have achieved subsequent success.

For 12 years, he served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the School of Social Sciences, and for two years as its Dean. He was, at different times, a member of some half dozen university committees, including the Advisory Board, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Athletic Control. His services to all the interests of Stanford were characterized by courtesy and loyalty.

In addition to his heavy academic and administrative duties, Professor Cottrell made available his knowledge and his experience in the formation of public policies and

in the conduct of public business. He was mayor of Palo Alto for two years and served on its city council for six. The Library Board, the Board of Public Works, and the Personnel Board derived benefit from his membership thereon. Called upon frequently as consultant in connection with problems of state and of city administration, he participated in the formal drafting of numerous city and county charters in California, and in installing budget and personnel systems in cities in seven states. He brought to these various tasks a quiet competence and a wide tolerance. He had no panaceas for the quick solution of governmental problems. He thought first of the next step toward improvement. His mind was predominantly practical; his objectives were to understand the immediate situation and to know what to do about it. He had little regard for theorization inadequately restrained by experience. Displaying strong common sense and a wisdom not alone of books, he gained and retained the deep respect and confidence both of public officials and of his professional coworkers in the field of Public Administration. He also had the regard and affection of a large number of advanced students, who, with his encouragement and counsel, entered the public service. In this respect, he shared honors with his longtime Stanford colleague, Professor Graham H. Stuart, under whose direction Stanford became a leader in the training of men for the Foreign Service.

Professor Cottrell also took great interest in the development of his profession, serving on three occasions as a general officer of the American Political Science Association and participating as trustee or director in the activities of other learned and professional societies. During his association with Stanford he contributed to various journals 36 articles and published one book. (Survey of Social Agencies, 1940)

After his retirement in 1947, Professor Cottrell became a Trustee of the Haynes Foundation, of Los Angeles, and its consultant in local and metropolitan government. For five busy years he supervised studies in administration in the Los Angeles area, and was joint author of three volumes embodying the results of careful research and investigation. (Characteristics of the Metropolis, 1950; Finance and Taxation, 1953; The Metropolis: Is Integration Possible? 1953.) He was a member of the Federal Loyalty Review Board during a critical period, 1949-1953.

Edwin A. Cottrell was a generous, kindly man, with a great capacity for friendship. As teacher, as administrator, as public spirited citizen, and as churchman he served faithfully his university, his community, and his country, and played a worthy part in that endless adventure—the government of men.

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