

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ELMER DANIEL FAGAN (1895 – 1971)

Elmer Daniel Fagan, Emeritus Professor of Economics, died June 16, 1971. Born in Oxford, Kansas on November 27, 1895, he began his academic career with the A.B. degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1920, the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University in 1921 and 1926. He came to Stanford in 1928, after seven years on the faculty of the University of Southern California, and retired in 1961. He retired from Stanford but not from teaching, exchanging his classroom here for another at the University of Santa Clara during 1962-69.

Professor Fagan served with distinction in every phase of academic life. His contributions of scholarly articles to major journals in this country and abroad put him high in the ranking of economists concerned with government finance. His position was acknowledged outside of the academic world by consultantships with the United States Department of the Treasury and the Government of California. His academic repute was demonstrated by visiting appointments at major universities, including Columbia University and the Universities of Oregon, Virginia and Washington. He served in various roles with the American Economic Association, the Pacific Coast Economic Association and the National Bureau of Economic Research.

The effectiveness of Professor Fagan's guidance in graduate study is attested by former students who perform effectively as academic and government economists in this country and elsewhere. He insisted upon a command of analytical technique, and he communicated strongly a sense of the intricate interdependence among economic phenomena. He absorbed and helped his students to absorb the impact of the Keynesian Revolution in economic thought and public economic policy.

Professor Fagan was at his superb best in undergraduate education. In the 1930's and again in the 1950's, he advocated measures to liberalize undergraduate instruction that have finally been adopted in the latest wave of reform. He qualified early as "the faculty champion in terms of students advised, parents soothed and encouraged, eating-hall dinners ingested, fraternities advised and alumni conferences lectured." 'But it was mainly his teaching of undergraduates that won for him in 1961 the first Dinkelspiel Award. His concern with undergraduate instruction amounted to a passion; as he put it, "When I get into class, meet with students - well, for me that's IT!" He added, "I love it." His technique was dramatic, and he called into use such conceptual novelties as "aeroeconodynamics" and "doitagainism" to make his points. The points were always sharp, adapted from the most subtle professional work in his field so that undergraduates might appreciate intellectual discipline. While he qualified as "one of the most spectacular classroom tacticians in the University's history," he stayed rigorously with the strategy of leading undergraduates as far as they could go in economic analysis. Professor

Fagan's thirty-three years of teaching at Stanford left to the University an important endowment of good will among his thousands of students.

Professor Fagan is survived by his wife, Virginia Strother Fagan; two daughters who are graduates of Stanford, Mrs. William R. Grannis and Mrs. Richard H. Hamilton; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

John G. Gurley

Bernard F. Haley

William O. Jones

Edward S. Shaw, Chairman