

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### OSWALD NIELSEN (1904 - 1981)

Oswald Nielsen, a leading professor of accounting in the Stanford Graduate School of Business for 22 years, died at his home in Indianapolis on Sunday, September 6, 1981, of heart failure. His health had steadily declined in the last year. Memorial services were held Wednesday, September 9, in Indianapolis,

Oswald Nielsen was born in Sioux City, Iowa, November 28, 1904. He received an A.B. degree in accounting and business administration from the University of Chicago in 1929. From 1929 to 1936 he did graduate work in accounting and economics at the University of Minnesota, receiving a Ph.D. in June of 1936. During these same years he was a full-time instructor in principles of accounting at the University of Minnesota.

From 1936 to 1938 Professor Nielsen worked in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce, preparing estimates of the national income in construction and communication industries. From 1938 until 1941 he worked for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and in the Office of Procurement and Material, U.S. Navy Department, in 1941-42. During these years, 1936-42, he taught at the Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and American University, Washington, D.C.

Professor Nielsen served as Chief of the Compliance Division, Minneapolis Regional Office, War Production Board, Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1942-43. He then served as Controller for the Lewis Bolt and Nut and Rivet Manufacturers, Minneapolis, from 1943 to 1948. During this time he served as a member of the cost and accountants committee of the American Institute of Bolt, Nut and Rivet Manufacturers, and as a Lecturer in Accounting at the University of Minnesota, 1946-48. Professor Nielsen was also a Certified Public Accountant.

Professor Nielsen joined the faculty of the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 1948. In his early years at Stanford he served as Chairman of the Doctoral Program, and was very influential in the development and growth of that program at the School.

After retiring from Stanford in 1970, Professor Nielsen remained very active in the academic field. He taught at San Jose State University, the University of Virginia, Florida State University, the University of Missouri, the University of Michigan, and Purdue University, before his declining health prevented further teaching.

Professor Nielsen was the author of *Cases in Auditing* and coauthor of *The Organizing and Financing of Research in Private Japanese Universities* and *Research in Accounting Measurement*. He was the author of a number of articles appearing in business and professional journals. In 1966-67 he was awarded a National Association of Accountants Certificate of Merit for his article, "Canons for Line of Business Reporting," which appeared in *Management Accounting*. He served as a consultant to the U.S. General Accounting Office in 1961 and 1965.

Professor Nielsen was an excellent teacher, a fine research scholar and writer, who was admired and respected by his students, his colleagues, and his friends in the business community.

Those of us who knew Professor Nielsen well will always remember his many contributions to business education in accounting and to the growth and development of the prestige of the Stanford Graduate School of Business. "Ozzie" had a deep, continuing interest in the progress of his students and colleagues. We will remember Ozzie best for his personal warmth, gentle wit, loyalty, and thoughtfulness as a friend, and as an unusually devoted and compassionate family man. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Professor Nielsen is survived by his wife, the former Irene Allen; a daughter, Helen Feldman of Indianapolis; a son, John Nielsen of Quincy, Illinois; two brothers, the Reverend Jonathan Nielsen of Kansas City, Kansas, and the Reverend Raymond Nielsen of Kirkland, Washington; and three grandchildren.

Arthur Kroeger, Chairman  
Thomas W. Harrell  
Charles T. Horngren