

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

NORMAN JOHN SILBERLING (1892 – 1942)

Dr. Norman J. Silberling, Professor of Business Research in the Graduate School of Business, died very suddenly from a heart attack on Sunday, October 18, at his residence in Palo Alto. He had been granted leave of absence for the autumn quarter in order that he might complete his book, "The Dynamics of Business," which represents many years of research in the field of business fluctuations and embodies its author's philosophy respecting this important field.

Dr. Silberling was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1892. It was in the schools of Cleveland that he received his preparatory training for his nine years of study at Harvard University. Early in his undergraduate days at Harvard he developed a keen interest in economics and, after receiving the bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in 1914, he entered that field as a graduate student, receiving the Master of Arts degree in 1915 and Doctor of Philosophy in 1919. His doctoral dissertation on the "History of Theories of Money and Credit from Adam Smith to John Stuart Mill" exhibited ability of a high order. The following year, Dr. Silberling was appointed Instructor in the Department of Economics at Harvard, and during 1920-21 held an assistant professorship at Dartmouth College.

A year later he accepted a call to the University of California as Associate Professor of Economics, receiving his full professorship in 1929. In 1930 his status was changed to that of part-time lecturer in order that he might give more of his time to the research organization which he had established in San Francisco and later moved to Palo Alto. In 1935 he was appointed to the position in the Graduate School of Business which he held at the time of his death.

Dr. Silberling was an able and inspiring teacher but his major interest lay in financial research. His greatest satisfaction came from his labors in what he chose to call the sphere of business dynamics. His book in this field, which fortunately he had completed with the exception of minor revisions in the later chapters, is an outstanding contribution and will serve as an enduring monument to a brilliant scholar and untiring worker.

From time to time, Dr. Silberling published, in the leading journals, articles in the field of finance statistics. At the time of his death he was vice-president of the American Statistical Association and Stanford University's representative on the Universities-National Bureau Committee on Co-operative Research in Economics.

In this untimely passing of our colleague the Graduate School of Business and Stanford University have lost a great scholar and able teacher and the members of the faculty a delightful associate and wise counselor.

Your committee requests that this memorial be made a part of the minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council and that a copy be sent to the family of Dr. Silberling.

George W. Dowrie
Theodore H. Boggs
J. Hugh Jackson, Chairman