IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD EVERETT HALE

Edward Everett Hale was born October 24, 1893, in Hubbard, Texas, the son of Elbert David and Mary Jerline Newton Hale. He attended Hico High School from 1908 to 1912 and The University of Texas from 1913 to 1916 and from 1919 to 1920, receiving a Texas B. A. degree in 1920. His undergraduate major subjects were English, Latin, and history.

He served in the Signal Corps of the United States Army from February 1918 to June of 1919 as a wireless operator.

June 16, 1923, he married Kathryn Louise Jarrett.

From 1921 to 1923 and from 1925 to 1926 he attended Graduate School, majoring in economics and philosophy, at the University of Wisconsin, receiving an M. A. degree in 1923.

He was appointed to The University of Texas faculty in June, 1923, as Assistant Professor, specializing in labor economics and economic theory. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1926 and to Professor in 1936.

Everett Hale served as Chairman of the Department of Economics from 1929 to 1934 and from 1939 to 1959, a number of years totaling a quarter century. About these years Dickens might have said "These were the worst of times," for they were periods of severe budget austerity combined with strong external pressures on the department. Yet Dickens might also have said "These were the best of times" -- largely because of the role of Hale. Faculty and student morale was astonishingly high, perhaps higher than in later years of relative affluence and freedom from attempted restraints on academic thought.
Much of this is explained when one understands Everett Hale's personality as departmental chairman. His operations were reasoned and equitable. He was abreast of what was going on, yet did not "bug" or interfere. He was meticulous with the "paper work" (or else was careful to see that he had a secretary who was). He did not allow his own ego to stir up storms. Yet in times of crisis and on matters of principle he quietly provided firm leadership.

And the Department experienced some major crises during the Hale years: Legislative effort to fire the fabulous Professor Robert Montgomery during the late 1930's; the 1942 firing by the Regents of three junior members of the Department for defending the Wages and Hours Act at a mass meeting in Dallas; the firing of Homer Rainey as President of the University in considerable measure because of Dr. Rainey's defense of the Department of Economics, legislative efforts in 1951 to get Clarence Ayres fired (efforts that were underwritten in the Texas House by a resolution to which there was only one dissenting vote). During the 1944/45 period of troubles at the time of the firing of Dr. Rainey, Everett Hale made a notable appearance before a legislative committee to present the case of the Department (and the University).

In 1941 the Department had a distinguished British visiting professor Eric Roll (later Sir Eric). A legislator, perhaps sensing a communist, called Professor Hale: "I have been hearing rumors about Professor Roll. Can you assure us that he would be willing to swear allegiance to the United States government?" "No," Hale replied, "I don't believe I could."

Desegregation was late in coming to the University. Even after they acquired legal permission to enter the UT-Austin Graduate School Blacks did not
generally regard their welcome as warm. But the Department of Economics under Hale's leadership was different: during the first half of the 1950's its one black graduate acquisition was treated like everyone else. A University administrator (not of high rank) got wind of this fact and telephoned Chairman Hale to inquire whether it was really true that [so-and-so] of his department was a Negro? The administrator received a polite Hale reply: "I'm sorry, I can't tell you; I forgot to ask him." But that kind of performance has never been highly rewarded by University of Texas administrations.

In 1959 Everett Hale turned over the Chairmanship to Benjamin Higgins. From that point on he never attempted to manage the Department or even to meddle.

Over four decades Professor Hale taught a wide variety of courses. Among them were: Value and Distribution, Modern Economic Reform, Labor Problems, Foreign Labor Movements (Labor Movements), Trade Unionism and Labor Problems, Classical Economic Theory (Development of Economic Thought from 1776-1848), Neo-Classical Economic Theory (Development of Economic Thought from 1848-1900), Economic Trends, Comparative Economic Systems, Systems of Economic Thought, Contemporary Economic Theory, Theories of Depression (Theories of Economic Fluctuations), Systems of Economic Thought, Income and Employment (this being the name in the later years of the masterful course on Keynesian theory), and countless offerings of the elementary course under various titles.

But Everett Hale was not simply a teacher with broad interests, he was a great pedagogue. Thousands of his former students would attest to this fact today. His exposition was always clear and his logic was sound. In some of
his courses he employed the Socratic method, in some he lectured. Somehow the technique always seemed appropriate for the subject. The Hale course in comparative economic systems was consistently one of the campus's most popular. And this was not because the man was an easy grader. As this is written local and national administrators are giving a lot of attention to "grade inflation." No such phenomenon would occur if professors were following Hale's example. As a matter of fact Everett Hale served as the index professor around the Economics Department. For the very stiff grading prof the students would say "Man, he's Hard as Hale!" Nevertheless, the students loved his courses, because they learned their subject matter from this man.

In his lecture courses Hale brought large index cards to class. So much was verbalized from those cards that his students began to puzzle. Could it be that Hale knew so much that he merely brought those cards to class for purposes of modesty or else to feign authenticity? Believe it or not, the rumor spread that one student had actually seen those cards, and they're blank! The likelihood of blank cards began to be debated furiously, till wagers were laid on whether the cards really had notes on them.

In 1949 he wrote, but never submitted for publication, an article entitled: "Some Implications of Keynes' General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money." It received a long standing ovation when he read it at a departmental supper seminar. And in the years that followed it was reproduced for use as collateral reading in various national income theory courses over the country.
During the 1940's and 1950's he may well have been on more Ph.D. dissertation committees than any man in the history of the University. There was one stage when he was on something like a hundred such committees.

He was the supervising professor on the following thesis and dissertation committees:

Ph.D.:

1960 Mario Belotti: "The Importance of Keynesian 'Dirigisme' and Christian Socialism in Postwar Italian Economic Policies"

1937 John O. Gragg: "The Theory of Saving in English Classical Political Economy"

1944 Richard Johnson: "The Legal Reserve Life Insurance Industry in the U. S.: An Appraisal of its Operations and Proposals for Reform"

1958 Irving O. Linger: "The Role of Clearing under the Federal Reserve System"

1958 Dudley Luckett: "The Interest Rate Pattern: A Theoretical and Empirical Study:

1931 Norman S. Spencer: "Dynamic Theory of Interest: A Differential Analysis"


M. A.:

Professor Hale served as a member of the Executive Committee of the University's Institute of Public Affairs during much of the 1950's.

In addition to his teaching and administrative work at the University, Professor Hale engaged in a major amount of labor arbitration. In several cases he was appointed as arbitrator by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. A great many of his awards were published in Labor Arbitration Awards, Bureau of National Affairs, Washington, D. C., and in Employee Relations and Arbitration Service and in American Labor Arbitration Awards, both of the latter being Prentice-Hall, New York, publications.


Other non-University activities over the years included: Labor Compliance Officer with the Dallas Office of the National Recovery Administration in 1934-35; Director, Division of Employment of the Works Progress Administration in San Antonio in 1935-36; public member of several Industry Committees of the United States Department of Labor between 1940 and 1942; State Price Executive, Office
of Price Administration, Summer of 1942; Member of the board of directors of the San Antonio branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas from 1948 to 1953; consultant to the Stanolind Oil and Gas Company of Tulsa in 1952.

Professor Hale was listed in Who's Who in America, the Directory of American Scholars, and American Men of Science. He was a member of the American Economic Association, the Southwestern Social Science Association, and the American Association of University Professors. From 1945 to 1948, he was Chairman of the Subcommittee on Elementary Courses in Economics of the American Economic Association.

Professor Hale resigned as Chairman in 1959 and as a full time teaching member of the Department in 1962. He was Emeritus Professor of Economics from 1962 until his death, February 3, 1975, at St. David's Hospital in Austin. He is survived by his wife Kathryn Hale, who lives at 7408 Cooper Lane in Austin. They have no children. He is survived by a niece, Kathryn Hill of Brady, and a nephew, Robert Hale of Jacksonville, Florida.

It should be said with emphasis that Professor Hale was a major influence in and on the Department of Economics at the University of Texas for four decades. He understood not only what a good department should be, but also what academic freedom and responsibility means when applied to a university community. He was a direct participant with other university staff members who were continually struggling to improve the university and to make it respectable throughout the country. If there is a sense in which the university has been saved from the onslaught of pressure groups whose ideas would lead to provincialism, mediocrity and stagnation, we can be assured that Professor Hale was one who helped in the saving.
As a person he was always courteous, honest, forthright and courageous in expressing his views. He was highly respected by members of the university and by business and labor associations, with which he worked. He was conscientiously devoted to his work.

Lorene L. Rogers, President ad interim of The University of Texas at Austin

John R. Durbin, Secretary The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Wendell Gordon (chairman), David L. Miller, and Daniel C. Morgan, Jr.