IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT LEE SUTHERLAND

February 11, 1903—November 19, 1976

Robert Lee Sutherland was born in Clarinda, Iowa, to Donald Grant Sutherland and the former Charlotte Cleveland. His father was a lawyer and the family moved to Seattle, Washington, when Robert was two. By the age of 15, he and his family moved back to the Midwest, settling in Galesburg, Illinois, where he saved enough money raising purebred livestock while in high school to finance his expenses at Knox College. Before receiving his A.B. degree in 1925, he was editor of the college annual, winner of the Bancroft Oratorical Contest, and member of Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Sigma Rho, and Sigma Delta Chi. Little did he know that he would be returning to Knox College 15 years later to receive the Alumni Award and in 1958 to be awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. After a year of graduate work at Oberlin, he married Marjorie Lewis of Knoxville, Illinois, and accepted his first teaching position as Professor of Public Speaking at Huron College, South Dakota. Their only child, Elizabeth, was born in 1931. His M.A. degree in 1927 led to further advanced studies at the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. degree in social ethics and sociology in 1930.

His first post-doctoral appointment in 1930 as Professor of Sociology at Bucknell University lasted ten years during which he served as chairman of the social science division (1934-36) and as dean of men (1938-40). In 1935 he took a semester's leave of absence to complete an introductory textbook co-authored
with Julian Woodward of Cornell University. Shortly after publication in 1937, his *Introductory Sociology* became the leading text in the field, going through six editions in the next 25 years. Another leave of absence in 1936 involved him in an experimental public forum project in Portland, Oregon, under the U.S. Office of Education. In 1938 he was appointed Associate Director of the American Youth Commission where he directed a staff of 40 persons for two years in a series of studies of minority groups. His summary volume, *Color, Class, and Personality*, was highly acclaimed when published by the American Council on Education in 1942, firmly establishing his reputation as a leading sociologist.

In 1939, a nationwide search was begun for a director to head the newly organized Hogg Foundation for Mental Hygiene at the University of Texas. Homer P. Rainey, president of the University, had been deeply impressed by the administrative, academic, and personal qualities of Robert Sutherland in their earlier association at Bucknell and at the American Council on Education. Miss Ima Hogg and a national panel of mental health consultants agreed, leading to the appointment of Dr. Sutherland as Professor of Sociology and Director of the Hogg Foundation, positions he held for the remainder of his career.

As operation of the foundation began, he traveled throughout Texas, laying the groundwork for close cooperation with agencies, organizations, and individuals. No region of the state, however small and isolated, was left untouched. His influence was greatly extended through many other specialists who were called upon frequently as consultants and speakers. By the close of World War II, Robert Sutherland and his consultants had worked in 152 communities with 2,000 groups and more than 400,000 people. Mental health was not well understood as a concept. The idea of positive mental health, of actualizing
human potential, nourishing the individuality of each person through social intervention, education, and community programs, was a relatively new concept which captured the imagination of thousands of Texans under Dr. Sutherland's enthusiastic leadership. In spite of limited staff and resources in these early years of the foundation, no request for help went unanswered. His unique personal touch, friendly manner, quick but thoughtful response, and open style of relating to people of all kinds established indelibly the fundamental character of the Hogg Foundation in these formative years.

By the early 1950's, the income of the foundation increased greatly as both the University and the state moved into a new era of development. The professional staff of the foundation tripled with the appointments of Bernice M. Moore, Bert K. Smith, and Wayne H. Holtzman to assist Robert Sutherland in expanding his program through grants to others for mental health training, research, education, and service, while augmenting his own personalized style of public education. His skillful leadership inspired others to exert their utmost efforts on behalf of statewide reforms for mental health and against mental illness. All of the major advances in state legislation and statewide reorganization of mental health programs during the 30 years of his tenure as head of the Hogg Foundation can be attributed in large part to his pervasive influence and rare ability to draw people together in a common cause, regardless of background and political persuasion.

While his primary responsibility was to direct the Hogg Foundation, first with the title of Director and then as President, Dr. Sutherland was also active as a sociologist and professor throughout his career. He frequently contributed to advanced courses and seminars, continued his own research and scholarly writing,
and served on numerous university committees. In the summer of 1954 he taught American Studies at Cambridge University. In 1957–60, he was principal investigator of a National Institute of Mental Health project, "Bridging the Experience from Hospital to Community." In the summer of 1961 he joined a small delegation of distinguished sociologists invited to tour West German universities by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany. He served as consulting sociologist at the M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute and as Lecturer at the UT Medical Branch in Galveston. At various times within The University of Texas he was chairman of the liaison committee between the University and the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, chairman of the advisory council for the establishment of the Institute of Urban Studies at UT Arlington, member of the advisory council to the School of Social Work Foundation, and member of the advisory committee for the Winedale Stagecoach Inn. Under his chairmanship, a special committee made an exhaustive study of counseling of university students in 1966. Many innovations in the student personnel programs of the UT System continue to flow from his report. In 1964 he was appointed to an endowed chair as the first Hogg Professor of Sociology, a post he held until his academic retirement in 1974. He continued his active involvement in foundation and university affairs as President Emeritus and Hogg Professor Emeritus of Sociology until his death.

Robert Sutherland's services were much in demand at the national and international levels as well as in Texas. He was an active member of the board of trustees for the Woman's Foundation (1946-50), Stephens College (1943-52), Knox College (1958-65), the Foundation Library Center (1958-64), and the Council on Foundations (1967-73). He organized and served as lifetime board
member of the Conference of Southwest Foundations, the oldest organization of foundations in America. His knowledge of foundations and skill in drawing them together in a common enterprise were without peer anywhere. Widely recognized as a foundation leader, he was a member of the Foundations' Executives Group, an influential organization of a dozen presidents drawn mainly from the large eastern foundations.

Among his many other assignments were the Panel on Research, Southern Regional Education Board (1954-57), the National Advisory Council on Dental Research (1960-63), the Technical Review Panel for the HEW Office of Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Development (1962-67), and the Citizens Advisory Council to the President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Development (1964-67). He also served as treasurer of the World Federation for Mental Health's United States Committee (1959) and as a member of the Professional Advisory Committee of the National Association for Mental Health (1959).

The honors accorded him were many. He was elected to Phi Kappa Phi and to the Philosophical Society of Texas. He was listed in Who's Who in America, and was recognized as an honorary member of the Titus Harris Society and the Texas Society on Child Psychiatry. Among the numerous organizations that honored him with special citations were the Dallas Health Museum (for outstanding contributions to public health in Texas, 1948), the U.S. Air Force (for leadership in directing a series of seminars for chaplains at the Hogg Foundation, 1956-67), the Texas Society on Aging and the Governor's Committee on Aging (1963), the Texas Social Welfare Association (1967), the UT Austin Graduate School of Social Work (1970), the Council on Foundations (1976), and the Texas Senate which passed a memorial resolution shortly after his death, noting his many contributions to the state and the nation.
The extent and depth of the humanistic concerns of Robert Sutherland are difficult to describe. He believed and acted on the premise that even the slightest tree could be of some shade to the weary traveler and that small amounts of aid, given with full heart, at the appropriate time, could be enormously helpful to the recipients. His genius lay in the involvement of people to help people and his faith that there was nothing more productive than the creative abilities of human beings. He emphasized effective, realistic coping with problems, all the while respecting and understanding the values of individuals and the paramount need to avoid doing anything that would humiliate persons or impair their dignity. Even during his terminal illness, he was always concerned for the welfare of others. He interviewed the hospital staff, praising them for their work, and pointing out the crucial role of attendants, nurses, and "just plain folks" in healing the sick. Compassion, empathy, and modesty were paramount in his personality, made delightful because of eccentricities distinctly his own. Thousands of his friends carry within their own personalities a little bit of Bob Sutherland. He will live on within all who knew him.

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

Bill D. Francis, Secretary The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Wayne H. Holtzman (chairman), Charles M. Bonjean, and Ira Iscoe.