IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD J. TABORSKY

Professor Edward J. Taborsky, a member of the faculty of the Department of Government of The University of Texas from 1948 to 1990, died at his home in Austin on November 12, 1996, after a lingering illness. He was 86 at the time of his death. Edward Taborsky was born March 18, 1910, in Prague, Czechoslovakia, the son of Eduard and Oldriska Taborsky, and after completing his education he entered his country's diplomatic service. But for the upheavals of the mid-20th century, the Second World War and the Cold War occupation of eastern Europe by Soviet forces, he would doubtless have achieved a distinguished career as government official and diplomat. Instead he became a faculty member of The University of Texas and an American citizen. Throughout his active professional life, however, his interests in and efforts on behalf of Czechoslovakia, and his research and writing about central Europe, were among his major concerns and academic activities. After his appointment at Texas, Dr. Taborsky did not return to his homeland until after the fall of the Communist government in 1989. In Prague, in 1991, President Vaclav Havel conferred upon him the Order of Thomas Masaryk, Czechoslovakia's highest civilian award.

Edward Taborsky received his doctorate in Law and State Sciences from Charles University, Prague, in 1934. In 1937, following two years of military service, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was Secretary to the Foreign Minister at the time of the 1938 Munich crisis that led to the annexation of a part of Czechoslovakia by Nazi Germany. In 1939, when German forces occupied all of the country, Dr. Taborsky escaped to England and subsequently became the legal advisor and secretary to Dr. Edward Benes, the exiled president of Czechoslovakia. He served in this position until the end of the war, accompanying President

Benes to a 1943 meeting with President Roosevelt, and on two official visits to the Kremlin. In October 1945, after the war, he became Czechoslovak Ambassador to Sweden. That year he was also awarded the Czech Military Cross and Medal for Bravery 1st Class.

Following the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1948, Dr. Taborsky remained in Sweden, resigned as Ambassador, taught briefly at the University of Stockholm, and in 1949 accepted an appointment as Professor of Government at Texas, where he remained until his retirement in 1990. At various times he was also a visiting professor at Ohio State University, the University of Tennessee, and the University of Southern Illinois. At Texas he taught on the politics of eastern Europe, the government of the Soviet Union, Soviet foreign policy, international law, international organization, and, for many years, a graduate course he created on the study of non-democratic systems.

Dr. Taborsky was a founding member of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia, the leading organization of anti-Communist Czech exiles, and traveled, lectured and wrote extensively in behalf of Czech interests. He was much in demand by campus organizations in Austin, elsewhere in Texas, and on platforms around the United States. The University's News and Information files record more than 200 public appearances, including the Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, the Foreign Service Institute, the American Political Science Association, and the Hoover Library, where he deposited a large collection of documents, letters, and other archival material, including a six-year diary of his wartime activities. He recorded four lectures for broadcast by Radio Free Europe, and contributed to a two-part BBC-TV documentary produced for a 50th anniversary recollection of the Munich Agreement. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1959. On other occasions he was awarded research grants by the American Philosophical Society, the Relm Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Dr. Taborsky was the author of more than 300 articles published mostly in English and Czech, and a few in Swedish. These appeared as monographs, conference papers, contributed chapters to books, in British and continental newspapers and journals, and in the United States, among others, in *Foreign Affairs*, *The Review of Politics*, *The Journal of Politics*, *The American Political Science Review*, *Current History*, *Problems of Communism*, *Orbis*, *Modern Law Review*, *Journal of Central European Affairs*, *The American Slavic and East European Review*, *The Southwestern Social Science Quarterly*, and *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. He also published some 15 books in English or Czech, and in the years after the defeat of the Communist government in Prague many of his books were brought back into print, including some of those written in English and now translated into Czech. In addition to the languages in which he wrote, Dr. Taborsky also spoke French, German, Russian, and Italian.

Although there was a certain reserve and formality about Dr. Taborsky, his classes were popular ones, in part because he had so many personal experiences with which to illustrate his lectures. He was also very accessible to students and sessions in his office, often with a full house, sometimes turned into a mini-seminar that lasted indefinitely. He was generous with his time and was a frequent visiting speaker before campus groups and on Texas Union programs. A *Daily Texan* reporter could usually extract from him pointed comments about the latest happening behind the Iron Curtain. Off campus, his personal interests and activities were varied. He was always an avid traveler, and retirement gave him and his wife more opportunity to indulge that interest. The appearance of his house and yard testified to his gardening instincts, and even after giving up tennis he continued to play table-tennis, and to keep up an active competition in his bowling league.

Edward Taborsky met and married Edith Calder in London during the war, where she was employed by the Czech Mission. Interestingly, she was born and raised in Czechoslovakia where her British father was in business, but it was the upheaval of the war that brought the Taborskys together in England. In addition to Mrs. Taborsky, survivors include son Ivan and wife Pamela of Austin, daughters Sonia of Austin and Helen Repsis and husband John of Grand Prairie, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Dr. Taborsky is also survived by three brothers: Dr. Ivan Taborsky of Arlington, Milos Taborsky of Lansing, Michigan, and Colonel Citrad Taborsky of Prague.

Larry R. Faulkner, President
The University of Texas at Austin

John R. Durbin, Secretary
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors James R. Roach (Chair), William S. Livingston, Wallace Mendelson, and Karl M. Schmitt.

Selected List of Books

Edward Taborsky was a prolific writer, and published so widely over a period of nearly 50 years, that even if there were a complete record of his work, and unfortunately there is not, it would greatly extend the length of this memorial statement. Instead, there appears below a selected list of book titles only, indicative of his interests and accomplishments.

The Czechoslovak Cause (Witherby, London, 1944).

Czechoslovak Democracy at Work (Allen & Unwin, London, 1945).

O novou demokracii (For a New Democracy) (Borovy, Prague, 1945).

Nase vec (Our Cause) (Melantrich, Prague, 1946).

Pravda zvitezila (The Truth Prevailed) (Druzstevni, Prague, 1947).

Nase nova ustava (The New Constitution) (Cin, Prague, 1948).

Communism in Czechoslovakia, 1948-1960 (Princeton University, Princeton, 1961; also published by Oxford Press, London, and Nikkon Rodo Taushin Sha, Tokyo).

Communist Penetration of the Third World (Speller & Sons, New York, 1973).

President Edward Benes Between East and West, 1938-1948 (Hoover Institution, Stanford, 1981).

Presidentuv Sekretar vypovida (The President's Secretary Tells His Story (Konfrontace, Zurich, Vol. 1, 1978, Vol. 2, 1983; published in Czech by Fronty, Prague, 1993).