IN MEMORIAM

OLIVER DOUGLAS WEEKS

Dr. Oliver Douglas Weeks, Professor Emeritus of the University of Texas at Austin, died October 30, 1970. He was born in Marion, Ohio September 4, 1896. He is survived by his widow, Julien Devereux Weeks; two children: Sarah Jane Hills, St. Lambert, Quebec, Canada, and J. Devereux Weeks, Athens, Georgia; and five grandchildren.

He obtained his education from midwestern institutions, graduating from the Marion, Ohio High School in 1914, and obtaining the B.A. degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1918, the M.A. and the Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin in 1919 and 1924, respectively. Prior to completion of the Ph.D. requirements, he had been a teaching assistant for two years at the University of Wisconsin and Assistant Professor of History and Political Science for two years at Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa.

Weeks came to the University of Texas in 1924 as Instructor in Government, and except for one year was on its faculty until his retirement on May 31, 1966. In 1925 he accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Political Science at Western Reserve University. He returned to the University of Texas as Associate Professor of Government in 1926, was promoted to Professor in 1933, and in 1934 was given the title of Graduate Professor. He was Chairman of the Department of Government in 1930-31, 1935-47, 1950-57, and during much of these periods was also Graduate Adviser.
Weeks carried burdens for the University which to present-day scholars would appear excessive. While Chairman and Graduate Adviser he regularly taught two courses each semester and simultaneously supervised a substantial number of Ph.D. dissertation and M.A. thesis projects. He served on numerous university, college, and department committees, and was chairman at various times of a diverse group of university committees, notably for many years the Committee on Public Lectures and a group of committees concerned with student government and student affairs. All of his various duties were performed with scrupulous punctuality and attention to detail.

Weeks' services outside the University extended to a variety of activities. He took a leave of absence in 1945-46 to serve with the U.S. Army University Faculty, first as Branch Head in Political Science at Shrivenham American University, Shrivenham, England and then on the Political Science Faculty at Biarritz American University, Biarritz, France. His most notable public service was with the Austin Public Library Commission on which he served from 1931 to 1969, as chairman from 1951 to 1969. He also served on an Austin City Charter Commission, as consultant for a decade to the National Municipal League on the "Model State Constitution," and in a variety of consultant capacities to agencies of state government. In professional organizations he was the first president of the Southwestern Political Science Association (1963-64), a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Political Science
Association (1960-62), and for many years a member of the Committee on Legislatures of the American Political Science Association. He was a frequent participant on panels at meetings of professional associations and quasi-public organizations. He regarded public lecturing as part of his professional responsibility and gave numerous lectures to clubs and other groups.

Weeks brought to his teaching an unusually broad background of knowledge in political science and history. He was a specialist in political parties and legislation, but for years he taught, in addition to his courses on Political Parties and Legislation, a course on Ancient and Medieval Political Theory and one on Modern Political Theory. He retained the interest in local and state government which grew out of a Ph.D. dissertation on county government. Yet his breadth was not accompanied by superficiality. A voracious reader, he also was a systematic note taker. His students, including two who wrote this memorial, would universally testify to his thoroughness, his exacting requirements, and his insistence upon perfection in written work. Many of those who wrote theses and dissertations under his supervision went through trying experiences, but knew when they finished that they had learned standards of thoroughness in research and skill in writing that would be adequate for their future use.

Weeks' heavy burden of university duties prevented the completion of some large projects which he planned. Yet his production record, which is attached, shows a steady stream of articles and monographs. He
often said that he wanted to complete at least one major piece a year
and a number of smaller products. Among his articles are some that were
reprinted in legal or political science collations. Every publication
was preceded by thoroughness in research. In quality the publications
show the realism that characterized Weeks' thought. In a period before
the dawn of behavioral techniques in social science research, Weeks
sought to penetrate the hard realities of the political world with a
fervor for empirical data and perception of its significance that led
him to say that he was more behavioral than the behavioralists. He came
to be known nationally as a constructive scholar, and as the person in
the profession of political science with the most profound knowledge of
and ability to interpret politics and the legislative process in Texas.

Assiduous in his work, he also enjoyed his leisure and friends.
He relished his associations in his clubs—in early years the Social Science
Club, Scholia, and Fortnightly, in later years Town and Gown. Except for
his clubs his recreation was in the numerous social gatherings in which he
and his wife participated. In these he relaxed joyfully, bringing humor
and jollity to the occasion. He leaves behind a family who knew his home
as the center of study and play, a multitude of students whose indebtedness
is large, and a host of friends who found life more joyful because he was
here.

Bryce Jordan
President ad interim of the University of Texas
at Austin

Forest G. Hill
Secretary of the General Faculty
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This Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Emmette S. Redford, Chairman, H. Malcolm Macdonald and Wilfred D. Webb.