

### E. Allen Helms

Colleagues and former students will be saddened to learn of the death of E. Allen Helms, Professor Emeritus of The Ohio State University. Professor Helms was born in 1897 and died January 23, 1979. Between those dates lies a teaching career at Ohio State that spanned more than four decades.

Allen Helms accomplished his undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Illinois (Ph.D., 1927) and came to Ohio State as an instructor in 1925, retiring in 1967. He served as Visiting Professor at several midwestern universities (Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan State); was President of the Midwest Conference of Political Scientists in 1962-63; and during the academic year 1950-51 was appointed as Fulbright Visiting Professor at Oxford.

Among his publications, he will perhaps be best remembered for a work co-authored with Peter Odegard, *American Politics: A Study in Political Dynamics*. That book in its several editions, was widely admired for its many conceptual contributions to the study of American politics. It was, however, as teacher in the classroom that Professor Helms made his most significant mark. With lively wit, and raconteur's skill, Allen Helms taught American government and politics to several generations of graduate and undergraduate students at Ohio State. For many, study with Allen Helms was a ticket into an invisible club: an extraordinary network of teachers, lawyers, judges, and civic leaders who all their lives remained admirers of their former professor.

Lawrence J. R. Herson  
Ohio State University

### Arthur N. Holcombe

Arthur Norman Holcombe, Eaton Professor of the Science of Government, Harvard University, died on December 10, 1977, in the 94th year of his age.

**Holcombe and the Profession.** In 1936 Holcombe's professional preeminence was recognized by his colleagues when he was elected President of the American Political Science Association. This was three years after publication of *The New Party Politics* (1933) which developed and proved a path breaking, but now familiar, thesis that economic class had come to challenge sectionalism in modern American politics. The growth of cities had introduced new interests into politics, and within the cities the primary political cleavage was along class lines. He further elaborated this thesis in *The Middle Classes in American Politics* (1940).

Holcombe was well prepared for this finding. On the one hand he had in 1924 published the most elaborate, thorough, and sophisticated analysis to that date of sectional interests in political parties, *The Political Parties of Today*; and on the other hand, he had previously contributed to study of the impact of economic factors in politics. Indeed, Holcombe had

earned his Ph.D. at Harvard in economics; his dissertation on *Public Ownership of Telephones* was awarded the Wells Prize in 1909 and subsequently published. The *Harvard Crimson* concluded in 1933 that Holcombe's training in economics and statistics had enabled him "to put science into government," although it should be pointed out that his "introduction to the study of the science of government," published in 1923 under the title, *The Foundations of the Modern Commonwealth*, had more references to Aristotle, John Stuart Mill, and James Bryce than to Adam Smith.

Holcombe once said that: "At Westminster party government is the essence of constitutional government, but at Washington there is both party government and constitutional government," and he undertook to explain both of these and how they are related. His best known study of constitutional government was *Our More Perfect Union*, published in 1950 and awarded the Bancroft Prize by Columbia University and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Fund prize of the American Political Science Association. This was preceded by numerous studies on constitutional government published in the journals and by several reports of committees of the American Political Science Association in which Holcombe played an authoritative role, most importantly *The Reorganization of Congress* (1945) and *The Reapportionment of Congress* (1950).

In the early days of modern political science, a leading scholar worked typically in many areas, and certainly this was true of Holcombe. In addition to political parties and constitutional government, he published on state governments (*State Government in the United States*, 1916), revolution (*The Chinese Revolution*, 1930), and international organization.

**Holcombe and Public Service.** As a young man Arthur Holcombe was a Progressive. He worked in Massachusetts for electoral reform, municipal reform, labor reform—he was appointed to the first Massachusetts Minimum Wage Commission in 1912—and in Progressive party politics. "I my callow youth," he said some years later, "I even took an active interest in politics. But since the collapse of the Bull Moose party I have been content to leave politics to the politicians."

But a strong commitment to public service continued to mark his long life. During both world wars Holcombe interrupted his Harvard career to serve his country in Washington. In the first war he was a special investigator for the Bureau of Efficiency, a predecessor of today's Office of Management and Budget, working on problems of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the War Industries Board. In World War II he was chairman of the Appeals Board of the War Production Board, which handled pleas, mostly by business men, against governmental orders relating to production quotas, allocations of materials, and the like. Holcombe's wisdom and judiciousness enabled him to dispose of 56,000 appeals, 1250 of them

requiring public hearings, without controversy about fairness of the proceedings.

Between the wars Holcombe undertook to train young Chinese for the public service. He travelled in China in the 1930s, where he lectured extensively, with the aid of an interpreter, and a good number of Chinese came to Harvard as graduate students to study with him. He took up again his interest in China after the second World War and was advising Chiang Kai-shek on a constitution for the Republic of China when the communists took over.

When Holcombe retired from Harvard in 1955 he told his college classmates: "I shall give my working time to my avocation, planning and agitating for a stronger United Nations organization." He had by then already published *Dependent Areas in the Post-War World* (1941) and *Human Rights in the Modern World* (1948). He assumed chairmanship of the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace and, in addition to supervising the writing of its important research and planning reports, he wrote *A Strategy of Peace in a Changing World* (1967).

**Holcombe and Harvard.** Holcombe graduated from Harvard College in 1909, joined the faculty in that year, and except for temporary leaves of absence, remained at Harvard until he retired in 1955. In 1946 Holcombe was appointed to the Eaton Professorship of the Science of Government, a chair whose three previous occupants had been Abbott Lawrence Lowell, Albert Bushnell Hart, and Charles Howard McIlwain.

The Department of Government was established in 1910, separating then from a department that had combined history and government, and Holcombe was associated with the new department from the beginning. He became chairman in 1919, serving until 1933 and again from 1937 to 1942. Under his leadership,

the department's program, which had previously emphasized constitutional and legal analysis, came to focus on the history of political thought and on analysis based on political theory. For this purpose Holcombe brought to Harvard William Yandell Elliott in 1925 and Carl Joachim Friedrich in 1926.

**Holcombe and Family.** In 1910 Arthur Holcombe married Carolyn Hawley Crossett of Warsaw, New York, whom he had met the previous year on a trans-Atlantic crossing. A fellow passenger was Anna Howard Shaw, a leader in the struggle for votes for women. She was chaperoning several young ladies, returning from an international suffrage convention. Had Anna Howard Shaw not been seasick, Holcombe was fond of reminiscing, he would certainly never have succeeded in becoming engaged to her young charge, Carolyn Crossett. Mrs. Holcombe subsequently was president of the Massachusetts Women's Suffrage Association. Carolyn Holcombe died in 1956 at the age of 74. Eight years later, when he was 80, Holcombe married Hadassah Moore Leeds Parrot of Philadelphia, "a Quaker lady of an appropriate age," as he would say, and they had 13 happy years together. Holcombe is survived by his second wife, five children, 19 grandchildren, and 25 great grandchildren.

Arthur Holcombe stood for the liberal spirit in the broadest and deepest sense of that over-worked word. His was a faith in the ultimate reasonableness of men, in the possibility although not the inevitability of progress, and, particularly, in the ability of the American people working through their institutions to realize the liberal values and principles on which this nation is founded.

Whenever we think of Arthur Holcombe we straighten up.

Arthur Maass  
Harvard University

#### APSA Congressional Fellows Praise Senator Metcalf\*

Mr. Stevenson. Mr. President, The Congressional Fellowship Program of the American Political Science Association (APSA) has afforded many journalists, political scientists, and federal civil servants the opportunity to serve as Fellows, or interns, in House and Senate offices where they can see, at firsthand, how the Congress functions. Our late colleague from Montana, Lee Metcalf, is warmly remembered by many former Congressional Fellows as an enthusiastic supporter of this internship program. In a letter to the APSA, four former Fellows have made a personal statement of appreciation for Senator Metcalf's contributions to the program and of the affection and respect with which he is remembered. I ask that this testimonial to the memory of our late colleague be printed in the *Record*.

The material follows:

January 2, 1979

Dr. Evron M. Kirkpatrick  
Executive Director  
American Political Science Association  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Kirkpatrick: As former Congressional Fellows, we wish to make a personal statement of appreciation for the contribution made to the fellowship program over the years by the late Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana. During Senator Metcalf's 17-year tenure, more than a score of Congressional Fellows had the good fortune to serve in his office, and the four of us—a journalist, a political scientist, a civil servant, and a former journalist and labor union representa-

\**The Congressional Record*, January 23, 1979.