

The Bancroft Library

University of California/Berkeley
Regional Oral History Office
University History Series

ROBERT GORDON SPROUL
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

A Memoir by
Agnes Roddy Robb

With an Introduction by
Garff Wilson

An Interview Conducted by
Harriet Nathan

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Agnes Roddy Robb became a Cal partisan as a freshman, in September 1914. So began an extraordinary 75 years of devotion to the University ended only by her death in Oakland on June 11, at the age of 94.

"Miss Robb," as generations of students, faculty and staff members, and alumni knew her, created a lifetime of loyal service and generous benefaction which has few rivals. Chancellor Ira Michael Heyman eulogized her "great spirit and determination" and "fierce loyalty to UC and the Berkeley campus." "The University was her life," commented University President David P. Gardner.

Such a life seemed unlikely when, as a child, her father, an attorney and Pennsylvania State University trustee, died at an early age, followed shortly thereafter by her mother. Brought to Oakland with her younger brother by an aunt and uncle, she soon showed the determination which was to belie her diminutive size. She commuted three hours daily to San Francisco's Lowell High School before her senior year at Berkeley High. After earning a degree in Spanish at Cal in 1918, she worked for a year off campus. Then came the fated call from Robert Gordon Sproul asking her to join the UC staff.

"I hated it," she would recall much later, "stuck in the attic, up and down the stairs 40 times a day. Mr. Sproul had a painting of a shipwreck behind his desk, and I used to think, 'I don't know which is worse, being shipwrecked or this new job.'"

By 1930 Sproul had become UC President and Miss Robb his administrative assistant (to which the regents added the honorific "emeritus" on her retirement). For the next 28 years, as the guardian of President Sproul's door and his schedule, she displayed the skills that made her a UC legend. "She was his very effective chief of staff," recalls rhetoric professor emeritus Garff Wilson '31.

When Sproul retired in 1958, Miss Robb left the president's office to continue to serve him, first as staff member (she retired in 1962) and then as a volunteer, until his death in 1975. The latter years were spent organizing his records for the University Archives, a collection from which she drew detailed information for her personal memoir of the Sproul years.

There followed a new career of works on behalf of Cal. An original member of the Berkeley Fellows and an active trustee of the UC Berkeley Foundation from 1969 to 1977 (and, thereafter, an emeritus trustee who rarely missed a board meeting), she endowed a Chair and Lectureship in Jurisprudence, Ethics, and Social Responsibility at the law school, prompted by what she saw as a weakening of ethics in the legal profession. She insisted on no public acknowledgement of her gifts to Berkeley, which would eventually total more than \$700,000. Among the other campus recipients of her benefaction were the Cal Band (more than \$175,000), International House (\$14,000), Cal Performances (\$10,000), The Bancroft Library, and the Botanical Garden.

Miss Robb was recipient of the University Centennial Citation and the California Alumni Association Centennial Medal. She received the Alumni Association's Alumnus Service Award (now called the California Alumni Citation) in 1972 and the UC Berkeley Foundation's Wheeler Oak Meritorious Award in 1983. She also was an active member of the San Francisco Luncheon Club.

Into her 90s she continued to attend Big Games, take part in committee work for Cal, and support the campus gifts of alumni classes (a major donor to the Class of 1954, she told its members, "Now I expect you all to get out your checkbooks"). She also gave generously to the Pacific School of Religion, the Bay Area Tumor Institute (where she was instrumental in creating its cancer nurse training program), and her church, whose shut-ins she was visiting at 91. Her longtime ties to the Sproul family were reflected in the 90th-birthday party given for her by 22 of its members.

—Richard P. Hafner '50

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PREFACE

Under a grant from the University of California, Berkeley Foundation, the Regional Oral History Office has been conducting a series of interviews with persons who have made a significant contribution to the development of the University of California at Berkeley. A list of University History interviews follows, including an earlier group which had been conducted in cooperation with the Centennial History Project, directed by Professor Walton E. Bean. The University of California, Berkeley Foundation grant made it possible to continue this University-centered series, of which this memoir with Agnes Roddy Robb is a part. In addition, partial funding for the memoir came from the Prytanean Society, the University's scholarship and service society for women to which Agnes Robb was elected an honorary member in 1941.

The University History interviews have benefited greatly from the expert advice and assistance of Richard E. Erickson, Assistant Chancellor, Development; and J.R.K. Kantor, University Archivist.

The Regional Oral History Office was established to tape record autobiographical interviews with persons prominent in recent California history. The Office is under the administrative supervision of James D. Hart, the Director of The Bancroft Library.

Willa K. Baum
Department Head
Regional Oral History Office

1 July 1976
Regional Oral History Office
Room 486 The Bancroft Library
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Berkeley, California

INTRODUCTION

It is often said that behind every successful man there is a loyal and gifted woman. Robert Gordon Sproul was especially blessed. In his case there was not one woman to support, assist, and strengthen him, but three: his indomitable mother, Sarah E., who lived to be 95; his remarkable wife, Ida; and, of equal importance, his loyal Chief of Staff,* Agnes Roddy Robb.

I am not qualified to speak of the contributions of Ida and Sarah E. Sproul. Perhaps I am not fully qualified to assess the quiet but tremendous contributions of Agnes Robb. However, I had the privilege of meeting her during the first year of Dr. Sproul's presidency; much later, I became a member of his staff and served for the last twelve years of his presidency. I have thus been a friend of Agnes Robb for more than forty years. With this background, perhaps I can assess in some measure the unique service she rendered to her President and to the entire University of California.

My earliest impression of "Miss Robb" was of her beauty and graciousness. In the fall of 1931 I was a graduate student on the Berkeley campus (having received an A.B. in 1931 at the first commencement over which Dr. Sproul presided as President) and I was also an avid swimmer and sun bather. The Berkeley campus was already feeling the financial pinch of the Great Depression and presently it was announced that the swimming pool, tucked away in the shrubbery of the Strawberry Canyon (site of the present Strawberry Recreation area) and a haven for men only, would have to be closed for lack of funds. I decided to start a campaign to raise money to save the pool but wanted President Sproul's blessing on the project. So I brashly called at his office to ask for an appointment. The receptionist ushered me into Miss Robb's office. I vividly recall her appearance: lovely face, delicate coloring, petite figure. I also recall her courtesy and her patience as she listened to my reasons for wanting to see the President. Evidently she thought my reasons were good ones because I did get an appointment with President Sproul. (The pool was saved.)

This first experience with Miss Robb illustrated not only her patience and courtesy but also another quality which I came to know well--and so did many other people. That was her fierce protectiveness of the President's time. He was immensely popular and immensely busy. He had to be protected from the cranks, the petty complainers, the misguided petitioners, and the

*Her official title, which I feel is inadequate to describe her duties, was "Administrative Secretary."

ambitious hostesses. So Agnes Robb screened every visitor, doing it with grace but with implacable firmness. If she felt the visitor's purpose was trivial or inappropriate, there was no way he could get past her. No President, I'm sure, was better protected from those who would waste his time.

To provide such protection--and to do it wisely--requires many qualities in a Chief of Staff. That person must have an intimate knowledge of the structure of the University and the way it functions; that person must know all the officers, the senior faculty members, and the student leaders; that person must exercise wise judgment in making decisions and tact in carrying them out. Agnes Robb had all the qualifications. The University was her life. She watched it grow from a single campus with two or three "affiliated" branches to a mighty complex of nine campuses and numberless affiliated enterprises. During all the years of her active service, no change was made without her understanding it, no function was added or modified without her knowing about it. She was acquainted with every key officer in every enterprise. Thus when she decided who should be given appointments with the President, she was acting with a comprehensive knowledge of the institution and its personnel. She rarely, if ever, made a mistake.

It should not be assumed that because Agnes Robb had an intimate grasp of the functions, activities, and personnel of the University that she tried to influence policy or meddle in decision making. She had a sure sense of her own position and functions. She never overstepped them. In directing the flow of people and papers to President Sproul she had, of course, the possibility of exerting real influence. But she never tried to be a "power behind the throne," and she never let her personal feelings interfere with her judgment of what was best for the University.

It is often said, laughingly, that one thing a woman can never keep is a secret. Agnes Robb is overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Never was a person more tight-lipped; never was confidential material so secure. She was, as she often said, "a graveyard." Sometimes her tightness of lip became almost an obsession. She hesitated to release certain information--such as the name of the Charter Day speaker--even when it needed to be released. Certainly there were no "leaks" as long as Agnes Robb ran the President's office.

Miss Robb had a keen sense of the dignity that belongs to the presidency of the University. She knew the duties and responsibilities of the office and, also, the prestige and protocol that should be preserved. She always addressed the President as "Dr. Sproul" or "Mr. Sproul," and he always called her "Miss Robb." The atmosphere in the office was cordial but there was no spurious back slapping or first-name calling.

More important, just as Miss Robb guarded President Sproul from people who would waste his time, so she protected him from events not worthy of his presence. She called his attention to every invitation he received--even though he insisted on reading all the correspondence addressed to him--and she always pointed out the background, the purpose, and the implications of each invitation. Those functions that were of minor importance or those unbecoming the dignity of a President were politely rejected.

Miss Robb never over-committed Dr. Sproul. Following his wishes, she refused to schedule him for several events in a single evening, which would necessitate hopping from place to place making brief appearances at each place--the way many politicians do. When President Sproul accepted an invitation--be it to make a speech or attend a dinner party--he devoted his full time and attention to it. A host or presiding officer was always sure he would be present and on time. In fact, President Sproul usually arrived at an appointment ahead of time and so was a hero to those who worry over programs and functions.

Whenever the President was involved in a campus function, Miss Robb did everything she could to assure that it would be of the highest caliber. She followed campus activities and University events closely. Sometimes she was unhappy with what was going on, but she never took it upon herself to interfere--unless the President were involved directly. Then she took a hand in the situation and, with the President's approval, made changes she felt were necessary.

It was through a traditional University function that I first became involved in presidential matters. When I returned to the campus as a faculty member after World War II, I was asked to help reorganize the annual President's Reception for New Students. This was a prestigious event of many years standing but during the war years the format had deteriorated. I was asked to devise a new format and with the advice, counsel, and guidance of Agnes Robb this was done. A procedure was devised that guaranteed that each new student would be given personal attention and would be warmly welcomed. Large committees of faculty and staff members and students were organized so that every new student met not only President and Mrs. Sproul but also student leaders and key faculty members. In addition, the new student was guaranteed at least one dance with a good looking fellow student. The plan was so effective that, with modifications, it has continued to be used for the past thirty years. It was successful because it fulfilled Agnes Robb's--and President Sproul's--ideas of what a presidential function should be.

Another activity in which I became intimately involved was the state-wide student organization known as the California Club. Early in his presidency Dr. Sproul realized the need for a mechanism that would enable

student leaders on the several campuses of the University to become acquainted with each other, to learn about University problems first hand, to discover the benefits of a single University serving the whole state, and thus to further Dr. Sproul's passionate commitment to the ideal of a unified, unfragmented institution. And so twenty-five student leaders from each campus were organized into a chapter of the California Club. Dr. Sproul appointed each member and initiated each member. Each chapter was directly associated with him. On at least two occasions each year, the several chapters met together and exchanged ideas with President Sproul.

For twenty years I was an advisor and, most of the time, the State Coordinator of the Club. Through it I had an additional opportunity to observe how the President functioned and how Miss Robb contributed to his effectiveness. For weeks before each statewide gathering I conferred with her--and sometimes with President Sproul--to plan the gathering for efficiency and dignity, to analyze the most useful roles the President could play, and to devise every means to insure that the gathering would have depth, importance, and attractiveness. Miss Robb always supplied me with innovative suggestions, she steered me from dubious programs and people, and she showed me how best to utilize the time the President would spend with us. When the gathering or conference was finally staged it had quality, vitality, and the right amount of dynamic participation by the President.

Agnes Robb was indefatigable. She worked early; she worked late; she worked on weekends and holidays. The office staff she directed often grumbled over the demands she placed on them. She was an exacting task master and had little patience with sloppy work or with those who were unwilling to make sacrifices for the good of the University. Often she expected the staff of the President's office to give the same extra time she gave. Without her dedication, they sometimes resented it.

Anyone who ever visited Miss Robb's office during a busy period has a vivid memory of the piles of folders, files, and papers which rose in mountainous heaps on every flat surface: desk, tables, chairs, floor. Agnes Robb marshaled and dispersed papers like a general commanding troops. And she knew every file and every paper despite the seeming chaos. The stacks of papers disappeared only when she took a vacation--which was rare. I was startled the first time I looked into her office when she was away. Every surface was bare. It was lifeless and desolate without those heaps of papers--and without the presence of the commanding officer.

Agnes Robb's loyalty to President Sproul and to the entire Sproul family is legendary. She admired and served the whole family for decades; they returned the admiration and affection. So far as I know there was

never a shadow of strain or misunderstanding. Agnes Robb was accepted as a member of a remarkable team and served the team with keen sensibility of her own position on it.

The twenty-eight years of Dr. Sproul's presidency were notable years for the University of California. During that period the physical growth of the institution was tremendous. More impressive was its advance from a University of national distinction to a University of world wide prestige. President Sproul's genius as a leader accomplished this. But the credit for a smooth-functioning presidential office--enabling Dr. Sproul to exercise his leadership in the most vital areas at the most crucial times; an office where enlightened priorities were recognized and followed; an office that provided the milieu for decisive leadership of a complex empire--the credit for such an office belongs to Agnes Robb. The University of California will always be in her debt.

Garff B. Wilson
Professor of Rhetoric,
Special Assistant to the
Chancellor, and Chairman of
Public Ceremonies

April 1976

INTERVIEW HISTORY

From the beginning of the '70s, knowledgeable observers of the Berkeley campus scene urged that Agnes Roddy Robb be persuaded to provide an oral history memoir. Her fifty-five years' association with University President Robert Gordon Sproul included serving as Administrative Secretary throughout his years as President and as President Emeritus. Miss Robb has thus observed and participated in significant decades of the University's growth and development. With President Sproul's illness preventing his appearance in the University History Series of oral history memoirs, early in 1973 Miss Robb consented to begin discussions and plans for her reminiscences of Robert Gordon Sproul and his presidency of the University.

As Administrative Secretary to the President Emeritus, Miss Robb works in Room 250 L Sproul Hall. The outer offices and entrance way have been divided and subdivided into offices and cubicles housing a number of administrative functions. Inside her office, Miss Robb presides over a busy desk, boxes of documents and papers, phone calls and visitors. She continues to be well informed about University affairs and remains alert to its interests and welfare.

She focussed consistently on the President, his leadership, those matters she judged to be significant in his story and the University's, and of which she had first-hand knowledge. She permitted only a handful of pages concerning another interesting and delightful person, herself. With ample files at hand and a retentive memory, Miss Robb chose to present primarily material she thought would not be available elsewhere, as, for example, in the records of the Academic Senate or the Regents. Instead she spoke of Mr. Sproul, the man, the view from the President's office, and whenever possible provided statements in his own words. Miss Robb reviewed, revised and edited the transcribed interviews with meticulous attention, and found in the files a wealth of material to be appended to this memoir and to be deposited in the University's Archives.*

In addition to a number of meetings and conferences with the interviewer, Miss Robb provided nine recorded interviews, with sessions usually running from 9:30 a.m. until close to noon. With the exception of Interview IV, which took place in the old Regents' room on the second

*Within the past several years, material related to President Sproul has been deposited in the University Archives, The Bancroft Library. The Sproul collection includes files, scrapbooks of clippings and bound copies of his speeches, as well as additional material related to this oral history memoir.

floor of Sproul Hall, the sessions were held in her office in Room 250 L, on the following schedule:

Interview I	November 16, 1973	Interview VI	February 1, 1974
Interview II	November 30, 1973	Interview VII	February 8, 1974
Interview III	January 11, 1974	Interview VIII	March 1, 1974
Interview IV	January 18, 1974	Interview IX	March 8, 1974
Interview V	January 25, 1974		

Harriet Nathan
Interviewer/Editor

21 April 1976
Regional Oral History Office
486 The Bancroft Library
University of California at Berkeley

THE FILES

Was it Bomba fled the blue Sicilian isles?
 Was it Saffi a professor
 Once of Oxford, wrought redress or
 Garibaldi? -- Who remembers
 Forty-odd-year old Septembers? --
 Only sextons paid to dig among the files
 (Such as I am, born and bred among the files).
 You must hack through much deposit
 Ere you know for sure who was it
 Came to burial with such honour in the files
 (Only seven seasons back beneath the files).
 "Very great our loss and grievous--
 "So our best and brightest leave us,
 "And it ends the Age of Giants," say the files;
 All the '60--'70--'80--'90 files
 (The open-minded opportunist files--
 The easy, "O King, Live forever files).
 It is good to read a little in the files;
 'Tis a sure and sovereign balm
 Unto philosophic calm;
 Yea, and philosophic doubt when Life beguiles.
 When you know Success is Greatness,
 When you marvel at your lateness
 In apprehending facts so plain to Smiles.
 (Self-helpful, wholly strenuous Samuel Smiles),
 When your Imp of Blind Desire
 Bids you set the Thames afire,
 You'll remember men have done so--in the files.
 You'll have seen those flames transpire--in the files
 (More than once that flood has run so--in the files).
 When the Conchimarrian horns
 Of the reboantic Norms
 Usher gentlemen and ladies
 With new lights on Heaven and Hades,
 Guaranteeing to Eternity
 All yesterday's modernity;
 When Brocken-spectres made by
 Some one's breath on ink parade by,
 Very earnest and tremendous,
 Let not shows of shows offend us.
 When of everything we like we
 Shout ecstatic:--"Quod ubique,
 Quod ab omnibus means semper!"
 Oh, my brother, keep your temper!
 Light your pipe and take a look along the files!
 You've a better chance to guess
 At the meaning of Success
 (Which is Greatness--vide press)
 When you've seen it in perspective in the files.

Rudyard Kipling

I AGNES RODDY ROBB: A BRIEF PERSONAL NOTE

Nathan: Shall we start with your own early years?

Robb: My mother was Agnes Roddy, the daughter of a Pennsylvania lawyer; my father James Findley Robb was the son of a physician. He was a graduate of Pennsylvania College, and for some six years a trustee of that institution, now known as The Pennsylvania State University. I believe he read law, as they used to say, under Philander P. Knox. They had a two year old son, Richard, who died of scarlet fever two days before I was born. It was early January in Carnegie, a town just outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was a hard winter, and my father with the responsibilities of his profession, law, in the city, and concern for a pregnant wife and a dying baby, fell ill with la grippe, and was shortly sent to the southwest with consumption as tuberculosis was then called. In a matter of weeks, my mother and I joined him and we settled in Banning, California, where my brother James was born. I was about four years and my brother six months old when my father died.

Some months later my mother returned to Pittsburgh and maintained a home for her sister and two brothers. While we were still children my mother died, and her sister Mrs. Walter Nellis and her husband in California were appointed our guardians. "Before the children came" became a date on which family events revolved. To this day the expression is still used to establish the date of an event. We lived with the Nellises until my brother married. I continued to live with them until their death, and still live with their daughter, known affectionately as Gertie.

Evidently my mother instilled in my brother and me the desire to attend college. Both my brother and I chose California where I made many friends and associations, but took little or no active part in campus activities. This I regret--for college is like a bank--you get out of it what you put in it.

Robb: Some months after graduation I started a business course in Oakland. I had a friend in the Alumni Office who said, "There's a job on the campus; why don't you come out and be interviewed?" I was not then interested. I was planning a trip. She called again and said, "There is a job in the Comptroller's Office. Do come out." So I did.

I was interviewed by Robert Underhill, who later became Secretary and Treasurer of The Regents of the University. He has always taken great pride in being a fast dictater, who likes to see his victim squirm. He started by addressing a letter to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. I was stymied immediately because I could not spell "Carnegie," and I was born in Carnegie! I immediately fell apart.

That evening, the telephone rang at dinner and I answered. "This is Robert G. Sproul, Assistant Comptroller at the University of California." He said, "I'm sorry, but I don't think you are qualified for the position for which you applied, but I like your looks. There's another job in the office which I'd like to have you take." I said, "Yes, I'd be glad to have it." I never did finish my business course.

I had the lowest position in the Comptroller's Office, which consisted of mailing all checks issued by the University, and "manning" an information window and delivering scholarship checks, refunds, etc. Some scholarship holders became professors, among whom were Professor William Giauque, the Nobel Laureate, Doctor Theodore Althausen, and Professor Lester Reukema, now all emeriti, to name a few.

This was in California Hall on the second floor. At that time, Berkeley was the only campus--Davis was part of the agriculture department, Riverside and Scripps Institution and Lick Observatory were research centers, and the medical departments were in San Francisco at the site known as the affiliated colleges. Legislation had just been passed transferring the Los Angeles Normal School to the University. All bills for all departments of the University were paid in the Accounting Department on the first floor of California Hall.

It was a busy window. It was the fall of 1919, the first college year after the conclusion of the war, and there was an influx of students, far more than the administration was prepared to handle.

Robb: In those days you registered in laboratory courses and paid the prescribed fee. When the capacity of the class was reached, fees had to be refunded. It was a very busy desk. The admission of the great number of unanticipated students made necessary a reorganization of the registration procedure. Incidentally, the registration fee, as it was then called, was \$5.00. But in addition to this sum laboratory and book fees were charged in certain courses. In the early twenties, Mr. Sproul recommended a single fee, eliminating the various separate fees, and the registration fee became the incidental fee.

One of the men, Herbert B. Foster, the University engineer, who kept the records of all University property, operated out of the Comptroller's Office. He took a fancy to me and said, "I'll help you." He would dictate letters to me very slowly. Mr. Sproul thought I had potential, then one day said, "Let's see if you can take some dictation." So he would dictate simple letters, such as "enclosed please find." I would transcribe them and slip them in with the secretary's letters. That's how I learned my shorthand by actual practice. I never was a good stenographer, and took very little dictation.

I was soon moved in with the secretary, who took the dictation from Mr. Sproul, and I did the office filing. This was about 1920 because I remember telling Mr. Sproul I'd never be a file clerk. He said, "That's the heart of the organization and the job. You think about it." I did and loved it.

I loved the University and was glad to be of some service to it. As time went on Mr. Sproul became more and more prominent and fortunately I was given more and more responsibility, serving him as his Administrative Secretary until his retirement in 1958. The University has continued this appointment without salary. My duties became less and less and I was able to go through his personal papers preparatory to depositing them in the University Archives.

At President Sproul's retirement The Regents passed a resolution, which I prize highly because most Regents knew me and something of my work.

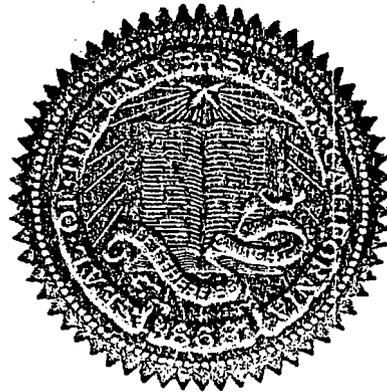
An amusing incident occurred at the traditional retirement party the Chancellor gives. I was presented with the usual certificate signed by the President of the University, but Mr. Sproul had written on the left side "Robert G. Sproul--Miss Robb's President."

U N I V E R S I T Y O F C A L I F O R N I A

Certificate of Appreciation

IN RECOGNITION OF
EMPLOYMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
FOR A PERIOD OF 42 YEARS THIS CERTIFICATE
IS PRESENTED TO
AGNES R. ROBB
WITH APPRECIATION FOR VALUABLE SERVICE


Miss Robb's President.




PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Robb: In 1967, I was made an Honorary Life Member in the President's Cabinet of the Pacific School of Religion, as an "expression of appreciation for contributions to the life of the school." This, I'm sure, was because of Mr. Sproul's efforts in behalf of the school and my part in aiding him in this area.

In 1967, I was elected a trustee of the University of California Berkeley Foundation, and am serving my last statutory term.

In 1968, as part of the University Centennial celebration, citations were presented as a recognition of services to the University. Such citations are the highest honor a Chancellor can present. My fiftieth class reunion coincided with the University Centennial, and at the traditional alumni luncheon in Faculty Glade Chancellor Heyns presented me with one of the citations.

Another feature of the Centennial Year was the establishment of The Berkeley Fellows, "an honorific society of one hundred distinguished friends of the Berkeley campus." They meet once a year with the Berkeley Chancellor of the University. At the first meeting, the membership drew lots as to the permanent number assigned to each person. Numbers One and Two are permanently assigned to Robert G. and Ida W. Sproul. Replacements are made as members die. I was elected to membership number 30, to replace the late Jean Witter.

One more prized possession is the Alumnus Service Award, established by President Clark Kerr in 1963, an attractive paper weight with a seal of the University and a golden bear in a C, and inscribed with the recipient's name and class. I am also the recipient of the Alumni Association Centennial Medal.

I have just been informed (February 1976) that the University of California Berkeley Foundation at this year's Charter Day will designate an Agnes Roddy Robb Glade in the Mather Redwood Grove in Strawberry Canyon.

Nathan: What a lovely honor.

Robb: Yes, it is. And here is an old letter I wanted to show you. It just interests me. It's from Professor Cushing of the Department of Music, and this is to me.

At any future time, when you're leaving or returning to Berkeley by boat or by rail or in connection with any christening, wedding, funeral or any occasion for entertainment or celebration, if you should like the California Band to receive and send off or otherwise comfort and regale you, just give me the word and we shall be there one hundred percent.

Isn't that cute?

Nathan: Delightful!

Robb: That was way back in 1941.

I am also an honorary member of Prytanean and on April 9, 1976, I was honored with Alumni Membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Now, that's enough about me.

II ROBERT GORDON SPROUL: BEGINNING A CAREER

Robb: Now I would like to talk about Mr. Sproul--to tell something of Robert Gordon Sproul, the man. I do not intend to produce a biography, but to touch upon some of the highlights of a long and illustrious career, and to convey something of the flavor of his administration.

Family and Boyhood

Robb: Mr. Sproul was one of two sons of devout Presbyterian parents, born in San Francisco. His father was an intellectual Scot, his mother a pragmatist. Both parents had an effect on the children, the father instilling the desire for intellectual and cultural things and the mother, the aim for excellence and a zest for life.

The efficiency for which Mr. Sproul became known was evidenced early. He was a good student at Mission High School in San Francisco and sold newspapers to start a fund for his college education. At the time of the San Francisco earthquake he worked for an engineer, surveying property alignments. For a year he continued in this work to augment his college finances. This man had a lasting influence on Mr. Sproul. He recognized the potential in this high school boy, and because of his grasp of the job, urged him to enter the engineering profession, but more importantly recognized his undiscovered talents.

This man was in charge of the arrangements for the Portola Festival parade, to take place, I believe, on Christmas Eve the year Mr. Sproul graduated from high school. He made him a kind of marshal. Here was this teen age boy in an open lead car, bedecked in a large black velvet hat with a big white plume, and

Robb: waving a baton to the crowd to make way for the coming parade. This seemed to transform a quiet studious boy into a person who met and enjoyed people, and gave him a taste and a flair for public appearances, which became such an asset in later years.

He also had a job lighting the gas street lamps on Castro Street, with a long pole.

An Engineering Student at U.C. Berkeley

Robb: He did register in the College of Engineering at the University of California, and graduated in 1913. A year later the family moved to Berkeley, where he has lived continuously to this day.*

While he was a good student in engineering, I don't believe his heart was in that field and he soon abandoned the profession. However, it was a great asset to him in his legislative work, and later in his administration. It gave him an unemotional approach to problems that made his decisions more sound than if they had been swayed by emotion. Perhaps that was his Scotch ancestry, but it was very definitely a part of his administration.

Not too long before he died, Professor G.P. Adams told me he was impressed by the young engineering student who came to him for permission to enter his philosophy course because he missed cultural content in his engineering program.

It's interesting that early in his administration, the President appointed an academic committee to consider expanding the engineering curricula to include some cultural courses. These deliberations were halted because of the activities of the federal government in defense projects, and later the war. However, following the war, the curriculum was widened. Now to achieve a degree in engineering, a student must complete a specified number of units of humanities and social sciences.

This same professor who Mr. Sproul consulted as a freshman was none other than George Plimpton Adams, Professor of Philosophy, who was one of the elder statesmen on whom the President called for counsel and guidance.

*Sproul, Robert Gordon, May 22, 1891-September 10, 1975.

Campus Activities

Robb: At the University Mr. Sproul was a track man and was active as a student leader. He was president of the Junior Class and the University YMCA, known as Stiles Hall. He was elected to several honor societies; the two in which he was most active were Winged Helmet and Golden Bear. In those days, Golden Bear was the heart of the student body, composed of the leading senior students and those with the greatest potential. Golden Bear was almost a religion with him while a student and later as President.

After he graduated he used to announce the track events without a megaphone, and successfully, I may say. (This was the day before amplifiers and loud speakers!) That was my first notice of Mr. Sproul--hearing the results of the meet on the athletic field west of California Hall, now the site of the Life Sciences Building. I would be a long way from the field, probably near the Doe Library.

There is the oft-repeated story beginning in 1915 or 1916 when President Wheeler asked, "What's all this commotion in the next room?" "Mr. Sproul is talking to Sacramento," replied Victor Henderson, then Secretary of The Regents of the University. "Well, tell him to use the telephone," said President Wheeler. Through the years there were many versions of this account, probably culminating in 1964 when The Faculty Club at their Christmas dinner, gave Mr. Sproul the Emeritus Award of a large yellow telephone mounted on a blue plaque, suitable for hanging.

Jobs and Increasing Responsibilities

Robb: Mr. Sproul's first job was a position with the City of Oakland as Efficiency Engineer, where he spent a year or so, just long enough to meet and woo Ida Amelia Wittschen.

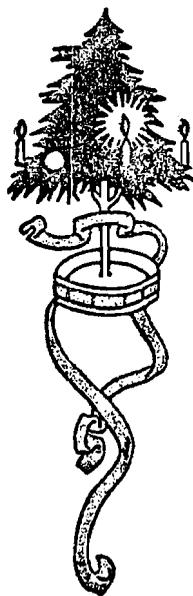
Newton Drury, who was then Secretary to President Wheeler, suggested to Ralph Merritt, then Comptroller, that there was a young man recently out of college, who would be a splendid addition to his staff: "His name is Robert Sproul." Mr. Merritt agreed and appointed Mr. Sproul Cashier. Being a good mathematician, he had little trouble counting and balancing the

Christmas

Dinner

at

The Faculty Club



TUESDAY EVENING

DECEMBER 8

1964

Master of the Feast

GEORGE R. STEWART

The Master's Pipers — Arthur Kip, Howard Mel

The Master's Drummer — Arthur Ross

The Master's Cup-bearer — David Cudaback



The Monks

DAVID BOYDEN	WOODBIDGE METCALF
ROBERT BRODE	LAWRENCE MOE
ROBERT COCKRELL	HEBER NEWSOM
CHARLES DALZIEL	JOHN REYNOLDS
THOMAS EVERHART	RONALD SHAW
DAVID JUDD	EDGAR SMITH
WALTER KNIGHT	GEORGE STEVENS
EUGENE LEE	GARETH THOMAS
	STANLEY WILLIAMSON

WILSON POWELL, *Prior*

The Program

THE FACULTY CLUB FOUNDATION
ANNOUNCES
THE ANNUAL FACULTY CLUB AWARDS

1. Emeritus Award *to P. J. S.*
2. Redirection Award
3. Academic Senate Award
4. Teaching Award
5. International Progress Award

*Following the program
The Friends of the Faculty Club will serve
Mulled Wine in the Howard Room*



The Menu

OLIVES

PICKLES

SHRIMP SALAD

ROAST TURKEY WITH DRESSING

CRANBERRY SAUCE

BAKED HAM

GREEN BEANS

YELLOW SQUASH

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

RUM SAUCE

COFFEE

ROLLS

Robb: cash. But there was not enough work to keep this enterprising young man busy, so he asked for more responsibility. Here is the letter he wrote to his boss.

Berkeley, California
February 1915

Mr. Ralph P. Merritt
Berkeley, California

Dear Ralph:

I am very sorry indeed to bother you at the present time concerning a matter of business but the fact that even a few days from now may be too late will I hope prove an excuse for me.

As you will probably learn by this mail, Anderson is leaving the office in two weeks, and within a few days no doubt his successor will be chosen. It is this latter event that I wish to forestall with a proposition that I have been thinking over for some time, and the feasibility of which I should like you to pass upon.

I would like very much to have Anderson's department placed under me, as well as my own, allowing me to assume whatever of responsibility there is to each and to divide the routine work among the various assistants in both departments as I deem most efficient. The work of the two departments dovetails in a great many ways and I feel sure that I could handle both in a manner not altogether to the detriment of the office as a whole.

As you know from the few occasions on which we have talked about it, the only objection that I have to my present position is the lack of work and responsibility. The change I suggest would correct this difficulty in a measure, and would also take me a step forward in the path you outlined to me on coming in - namely becoming conversant with every phase of the work of the Comptroller's Office. Anyway, I feel that nothing would be lost by giving me a trial, as I certainly would put everything I have into making the experiment a success.

Sincerely,

(signed) BOB

Robb: From the beginning of Mr. Sproul's career, community affairs became important to him. He was interested in Boy Scout work. In 1917 he became the only unpaid Berkeley Scout Council Executive, and in 1919 became its President. In 1920 he was elected President of the Berkeley Rotary Club, one of the youngest presidents, if not the youngest. Rotary was a great asset to him, and he became well known throughout the state because of the demands upon him as a speaker.

Commission on Agricultural Education

Robb: With the increasing national duties of Comptroller Merritt, Mr. Sproul became the University's legislative representative in Sacramento. Here Mr. Sproul acquitted himself with honor. He never attended a hearing or meeting when he did not go armed with all the facts in hand and in his memory.

About this time the agricultural interests of the state began a campaign to separate agricultural studies from the University. Here Mr. Sproul lent his time and talents to the promotion of a study of the situation in California as well as in the nation.

As a result of the hearings a legislative commission was appointed, with Mr. Sproul as one of the seven members. The other members were: W. S. Guilford, Butte City; Dr. Elwood Mead, Berkeley; J. James Hollister, Gaviota; Sheridan W. Baker, Santa Rosa; Sam G. Mortland, Fresno; A. C. Hardison, Santa Paula, Chairman. These appointments were made by Governor William D. Stephens. The Commission's charge was:

...to investigate the plan of operation and organization of agricultural colleges in the United States, and to recommend a plan for the reorganization of agricultural instruction in the State of California....

The commission toured the United States and in 1923 presented its report to the Legislature, recommending that the College of Agriculture be continued as a part of the University of California, and that support and encouragement be given to the development of the Davis Campus. And so as the years passed, Davis emerged and became one of the major campuses of the University.

The work of the Commission brought Mr. Sproul to the attention of leaders in the agricultural and educational field throughout the country and particularly throughout the state of California.

III PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY: STYLE, VIEWS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Robb: The Regents were aware of Mr. Sproul's capabilities, and he rose from Assistant Comptroller, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Regents and Land Agent to Comptroller and Secretary. In 1925 he received the additional title of Vice President of the University with respect to matters of finance and business management. In June of 1929 he was named President of the University of California, the appointment to become effective July 1, 1930.

He accepted the appointment, and I have included a copy of his handwritten draft letter in the following pages.

And so began an important period in the history of the University of California. As James Conant, President of Harvard University later wrote to Mr. Sproul, "I see you as the University president who has done more to make the university a center of learning than any other in our generation."

There may have been some apprehension on the part of the faculty the new President might be too "Rotarian"--too much a business man--but the idea was soon dispelled by his visit to institutions of comparable standing during the leave of absence granted by the Regents, and the recognition of the community through his legislative experience and travels throughout the state.

Centered about his inauguration were several academic and scientific conferences such as those of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of International Relations which attracted some of the most distinguished persons both from this country and abroad. This was a tribute not only to the University

The Board of Regents of the University of California:

Your committee has informed me of my appointment to the presidency of the University of California, made vacant by the resignation of President W. W. Campbell, effective July 1, 1930. I appreciate the opportunity for worthy accomplishment which is thus afforded me, and even more the expression of your confidence and regard after fifteen years of close association. Long ago I dedicated what talents I have to the University of California and I am disposed to answer this call to a field of wider usefulness.

It is my understanding that I am to serve under conditions which have been established as the best practice during the past twenty years or more and which involve recognition of that the President is the executive and administrative head of the University in all its departments; that he is the sole channel of communication between the faculty and students on the one hand and the ^{members of the} Board of Regents on the other; and most important of all that he has the confidence and support of the Board of Regents as a whole. Unless these things are so it would be far better for the University that a President should not essay the task which, even under the best of conditions, is a

(OVER)

heavy one. If this is the understanding of ^{the} Board, I accept the trust which you have offered me and pray for strength adequate to the great work which a President of the University of California may do.

One thing more I would ask. My early appointment affords me an opportunity for preparation, of which I am most anxious to take advantage, and for which I would need a leave of absence ~~for the period~~ of six months from September 15, 1929 to March 15, 1930. ~~During~~ this leave I would propose to use for the purpose of visiting other institutions and familiarizing myself with their personnel, educational methods and administrative procedure. I would like also to be relieved of my routine duties as Vice-President, Comptroller and Secretary of the Regents from August 15 to September 15 in order that I may ^{transfer my activities to L. A. and} devote myself exclusively to the ^{work} ~~work~~ which must still be done ^{of California at L. A.} of the University, ~~there is to open on its~~ new campus this year; and from March 15 to May 15, 1930 in order that I may be free to prepare the budget for the first year of my presidency.

Yours faithfully,

Robb: as an institution but also to its new President. His inaugural address and the policies he enunciated were well received by the academic community and the press.

The cornerstone of Mr. Sproul's administration was three fold:

- (1) development of a statewide University;
- (2) development of excellent libraries; and
- (3) development of a distinguished faculty.

We will return to these three goals as we go along with the story.

Development of a Statewide University

Robb: From his experience with the Legislature, President Sproul recognized that the population growth was in the south. As one of the three members of the Southern Branch Advisory Committee appointed by President Wheeler in 1919 to guide the activities of the University in Southern California, he understood early the problems and ambitions of southern California. In his dedicatory address for the Los Angeles campus in October 1929, he set forth his statewide philosophy.

In the blue of her sky and the gold of her sunshine, in the wealth of her forests and fields, in the enterprise and broad humanity of her people, California, as we like to remind ourselves, is a favored daughter of the Union. It seems most fitting that in these surroundings there should grow up one of the greatest universities of all time, great in the wealth and beauty of its building, great in the number and zeal of its students, great in the learning and ability of its faculty, but greatest of all in the quality of its research and its teaching. For this to come to pass two conditions must be met. The University must continue to teach the truth to men and women who will go out with knowledge and determination to fight for the truth. And the State must continue to support a single University of California serving in many places and in

Robb: many ways, drawing adequate support from a single source and expending it through diverse channels for a single end--that men may have life and have it more abundantly. If these conditions are met the student of some far distant age, long after the buildings on this and every other campus have crumbled to dust, turning over the pages of California's history, will find written in letters of gold this legend:

The University of California, a University of deep scholarship and high service.

The daughter of the State, the mother of good citizens.

To this end he devoted his thoughts and energies.

Mr. Sproul realized his conception of a statewide institution meant size, but he was not overwhelmed by it because he thought by personal relations the problems of size could be overcome.

Mr. Sproul was a man of vision, aggression and honesty who felt the growing population in the south would require a first class institution there and he was determined that institution should be the University of California. To that end he bent his best efforts. He and Mrs. Sproul went to Los Angeles; he was practically unknown in the south, but he hadn't been there very long before he had made friends. Of course he had friends in the Berkeley alumni and the agricultural group, who were influential citizens in Los Angeles. They did much to establish the Sprouls socially, as well as helping further his aims for UCLA. He was asked to join prominent organizations, such as the Bel Air and Los Angeles Country Clubs, the Jonathan Club, the Sunset Club, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and perhaps others.

As evidence of the place he had made in the community, he was invited to open the Olympic Games of 1932, and with the other dignitaries to follow the traditional torch. And in 1958, the last year of his presidency, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, as is their custom "to honor the accomplishments of some distinguished American with the title of Honorary Grand Marshal," named Robert Gordon Sproul "for the outstanding contributions you have made in the field of education."

Robb: Mr. Sproul made it a point to know the UCLA faculty and their needs and to solicit aid for them wherever possible. So in 1936 he and Mrs. Sproul took up residence in Los Angeles. Both Sprouls were accepted in influential circles and they tried to take advantage of these opportunities to further the University's interests in the south.

As graduate work was established and developed, and the Los Angeles campus became more important, there were graduates who were stirred with the idea of a separate institution. The old normal school people on the UCLA faculty were retiring one by one. Gradually, of course, Mr. Sproul attracted more and better faculty.

Berkeley was jealous of the rise of UCLA. Maybe the President was spending too much time and attention on UCLA! He didn't have wholehearted support at Berkeley. Even Doctor Deutsch, his Vice President, used to say "It's inevitable; I don't know why we don't just let it go." But Mr. Sproul was a dogged Scot--he just kept plugging away.

Nathan: What was thought to be inevitable?

Robb: That UCLA would become a separate institution. Mr. Sproul did not think that the state could support two first-class institutions. The population growth was in Los Angeles; the development was down there; there was a chamber of commerce which was very active in the business of the campus; there were active representatives of the real estate agencies, finding land and developing it for the campus, etc. It was the thing to have a big institution at UCLA.

Mr. Sproul envisaged the University ultimately, I think, as being somewhat like the British Empire, with a king or queen who would be the symbol of the singleness of the University, and the various campuses similar to the dominions of the British Empire. He pretty closely followed that; he was the head, not a figure head, but definitely the symbol of the University.

It was his hope that one day the President of the University would be chosen from the Los Angeles faculty.

The California Club

Robb: Where his statewide program was concerned, it's interesting that Mr. Sproul's efforts emerged as early as 1934 in a recommendation by a UCLA student named Hardy M. Smith, who had transferred to Berkeley. The plan was to promote better relations between the Berkeley and Los Angeles campuses. The President said he was enthusiastically in favor of the plan and the California Club was formed. He said he would give it all the support he could, and he did. He personally appointed the members from each campus and he and Mrs. Sproul participated in each annual meeting, the President presiding and speaking. In a speech before the California Club in 1948, he said

That we have today a truly great University on eight campuses scattered over almost the whole length and breadth of California, is a direct result of the planting of fertile and right growing seeds by a handful of men who came to our State during the days of the Gold Rush - days now being memorialized in a State Centennial Celebration. These men were generally graduates of eastern universities, among them Harvard, Yale and Dartmouth, and most of them were ministers.

They did not themselves found our University, but they did found the little colleges out of which it grew; they did convince the rough and ready miners and mechanics of that turbulent period that higher education is a vital need of a pioneer people; and, by dint of their efforts, the first Constitution of the State of California carried the following provision: "The Legislature shall take measures for the protection, improvement, or other disposition of such lands as have been or may hereafter be reserved or granted by the United States or any other person or persons to this State for the use of a university with such branches as the public convenience may demand."

These early leaders, it is interesting to note, had their troubles with sectionalism just as we do today. It was necessary for them to reiterate constantly that they were not interested in a University of San Francisco or a University of Sacramento, but in a University of California. When Federal support for the establishment of a public college in California finally became available under the

Robb: Congressional Land Grant Act of 1866 - the so-called Morrill Act - it seemed for a while that the concept of a single great University would be lost in the confusion and rivalry between various cities for parts of the new institution. But, fortunately, the trustees of the College of California, a small, sectarian college in the City of Oakland, came to the Legislature with an offer to turn over their entire institution, including a new campus in the City of Berkeley, as a gift to the State, if the Legislature would create a true university. The Legislature did, and so the University of California came to be.

When we speak of maintaining the unity of the University, then, we are not referring to some recently coined slogan, manufactured as a matter of political expediency. Instead, we are talking about an ideal that has been part of the University ever since it was established, and which has been transmitted in strength and vigor to each new campus as it developed. We are talking about a plan conceived by the far-sighted pioneers of our State, and nobly executed by those who came after them; an ideal and a plan which, in my humble opinion, have contributed basically, continuously, and enormously to the greatness which has since been achieved.

The purpose of the California Club is to serve as a channel through which this ideal of the founders may function and flourish, and to provide and train leadership for the unremitting campaign that seems to be necessary to preserve and maintain a single University of California and to oppose all attempts at its division and diminution. I can't overemphasize the importance of these tasks of the California Club. It is far more than just another student activity. Its concern is not with small things or local affairs. Its organization, like its membership, is statewide. In the degree that it functions effectively, the State of the future will be enabled to maintain an integrated system of higher education which will offer to every young man and woman in California opportunities at least equal to and often excelling the best to be found anywhere else.

Because of the California Club, I dream of a statewide brotherhood of higher education someday, with the background of a common ideal and a common purpose, consecrated to the service of truth; of a State University enriching the whole

Robb: people of a commonwealth with the culture and traditions of all the races of mankind; of the spirit of new campuses, like a strong, fresh breeze, freshening the academic stuffiness of older centers of learning. In short, I dream of a University here in California which shall be the greatest the world has ever known.

The 1958 conference was dedicated to President and Mrs. Sproul "as a token of esteem on the eve of their retirement." The theme was "Progress Through Unity--The Advantages of a Statewide University."

The following statement appeared on the program:

The Club is living evidence of the unity of the University, which is the great gift Dr. Sproul will leave to the State of California; it is also an example of the warmth and friendship which can be developed even within a large and complex organization, and this is a result of the love of people which has always characterized the Sprouls.

Alumni Tours

Robb: One of the innovations of the Sproul administration was the Alumni tour each year, sometimes in the late spring and sometimes in the early fall. The Alumni Association in consultation with the President would determine what area should be covered. The President invited one or two distinguished faculty from various campuses; they were also adequate speakers. The executive manager of the Alumni Association conferred with leaders in the community which was to be visited. It was a sort of traveling Chatauqua with Mrs. Sproul and the wife of the manager. They tried to cover as many communities as possible, sometimes a luncheon meeting at one stop and a dinner meeting at the next. The meetings were real community affairs, and the programs were patterned after the Charter Day banquets at Berkeley and Los Angeles.

The University has many successful leaders throughout the state, and they were called upon to arrange the gatherings. This plan was more successful than to have the arrangements made by outsiders. The Sprouls and faculty speakers were great drawing

Robb: cards, and I don't think there was a single "flop" in all the towns they visited. Obviously, some were better than others. The "cast" were real troupers. The President, of course, gave his report on the state of the institution, reviving old loyalties and explaining the University's problems. It's remarkable--he never gave the same speech twice. Mrs. Sproul reported that at the close of each meeting he rewrote his talk to more suitably fit the next stop. The tours were immensely successful. The University was brought to their door and in some places the alumni meeting was one of the big events of the year.

The great value of Mr. Sproul to the University was his willingness and ability to circulate among alumni and leaders in the community, and to make lasting friends for the institution. And Mrs. Sproul made her contribution in this area too.

All-University Conference

Robb: With the conclusion of World War II, Mr. Sproul realized there would be many problems common to all campuses, so he originated the All-University Conference. At the first meeting in November 1944 on the Davis campus, he said:

While this Conference on the POST WAR UNIVERSITY is my idea and has been convened by me, I shall not attempt to chart its course or to steer its progress in ways otherwise than those appropriate to a chairman. The sole purpose of the Conference is to stimulate thought on all campuses of the University on major problems of the institution as a whole, and to afford an opportunity for free, frank and thorough discussion of such problems by a large number of interested members of the faculty. I need not remind you, I am sure, that this Conference has no power except to recommend to appropriate academic bodies and administrative officers.

To encourage thought by everybody in the University on University problems and to prepare for effective discussion by those here, plans for this Conference were made by a Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Professor Joel H. Hildebrand, with Professors G.P. Adams,

Robb: V.O. Knudsen, G.D. Louderback, C.L.A. Schmid, G.S. Watkins and J.H. Williams as its members, and, best of all Professors Frank L. Kidner and Robert W. Webb as its northern and southern secretaries. The Steering Committee appointed special committees on four topics and the reports of these special committees will constitute the background and foundation of our discussion here. With the work of these committees to date you are all familiar, and Professor Hildebrand will follow me on this program, to tell anything else that the Steering Committee has in mind for our three days on the Davis campus, to say nothing of our nights, perhaps, in Sacramento....

The program has continued annually to this date and I understand the printed proceedings are in demand throughout the country.

This plan of inviting leaders of the various campuses for a three or four day session housed in a University facility during an academic recess brought the individuals closer personally and formed a unifying influence in days to come. Here was another strong support for the President's statewide policy.

Development of Libraries

Robb: From the beginning of President Sproul's administration, he worked unceasingly for great libraries, regarding them as indispensable to good teaching and research. He said

no other division of the University articulates with all departments of instruction and research on the educational side, and certainly no department can rank with the library, which conserves and makes available the thought, and capitalizes the experience, of all mankind. It is, indeed, far more than a department: it is the common meeting ground and unifying influence for all departments. The intellectual growth and vitality of every school and every division, of every professor and every student depends on the vitality of the library.

Robb: Uppermost in his mind in allocating funds was the desire to enlarge the libraries on the various campuses. He saw the Berkeley Library surpassed only by the Library of Congress and the Harvard Library, with the UCLA library not far behind.

At the end of each fiscal year Mr. Sproul got from the accountant a list of unexpended balances. A list of priorities was prepared from which he financed special items that the regular budget could not provide. These savings were not used for support or capital improvements. Year after year he found funds amounting to thousands of dollars for the acquisition of books, and many thousands for the microfilming of newspapers.

Nathan: I might ask about special acquisitions to the University like The Bancroft Library. Was this something he paid attention to?

Robb: Yes, very definitely. So anxious was he that the libraries be great, he employed a man whose duty it was to search for rare collections. He toured the state and spent much time in the Mother Lode Country, and the President often found the necessary funds for the acquisition. Because he was anxious to have the Mark Twain papers come to the University, Mr. Sproul sought out and appointed Henry Nash Smith, the great authority on Mark Twain. The University later received the papers from Mark Twain's daughter.

IV THE UNIVERSITY AND THE STATE

Robb: In order to carry out his concept of the University, Mr. Sproul needed to have a solid basis for his administration. His accession coincided with the great Depression. This, indeed, presented a challenge. He took every opportunity to present the University's needs to the public--appearing in person before womens' clubs, alumni, chambers of commerce and speaking on the radio. He reported on the condition and prospects of the University, stressing as he did through the years, that the University was one of the principal assets of the state.

A great asset of the University was President Sproul's popularity throughout the state. His friendship with many prominent graduates of the University in the previous 20 years, and with other leaders in the state, made it possible for him to call on them for help and support. His fabulous ability to remember people and call them by name made it easy for him to approach them.

One such was George P. Clements, M.D., Counselor, Agriculture and Conservation, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Realizing the needs of agriculture in the state and the contributions the University could make in that area, he gathered a group of state-wide agriculturalists to meet at his Andreas Canyon Cabin near Palm Springs to discuss ways and means of assisting President Sproul. This informal group continued meeting annually during the Washington's birthday holiday in February. It was augmented from time to time by University persons, such as Claude Hutchison, Harry Wellman, Daniel Aldrich and Knowles Ryerson. I doubt if the group ever exceeded 30 in number.

Their meetings were most enjoyable, but there were serious discussions of the problems of the University and of agriculture in the state. It was most informal; no minutes were kept. Those

Robb: meetings were held for about 30 years, ending with the death of "Doc Clements," as he was affectionately known, and the ill health of Mr. Sproul. This was an invaluable source of help to the President, not only on agricultural problems but on various other matters because these men came from all parts of the state and were the leaders in their communities.

Mr. Sproul's early training under frugal Scotch parents and his previous experience with the Legislature taught him to keep a watchful eye on the University purse strings, and this he did. Familiar words were, "Remember, it's the taxpayers' money."

With his eye on the dollars, he personally supervised the preparation of the University budget. He had studies made of expenditures to look for extravagances or unnecessary items. He had personal knowledge of the departmental requests and what cuts, if any, he had made.

His relations with the Governor and the State Department of Finance were good. He was honest with them and he wanted to maintain their respect. His aim was always to do the best for the University. If savings could be made at the end of the fiscal year, they enabled him to provide funds for special projects such as research items, special pieces of equipment, or a book collection, as I mentioned earlier.

It was to his credit that he never presented a budget that was not balanced. Even in the dark days of the Depression, salary cuts had to be made; they were not across-the-board, but graduated. This was against faculty recommendations, to which the President replied, "When you cut the salary of the little fellow, you take his bread; when you cut the professor, you take his cake."

In 1935 he made a speech entitled "The High Cost of Cheap Education," which has some relevance today. A part of it follows:

"The High Cost of Cheap Education"

"The first business of a republic is education," said Plato, and the long record of the years confirms the accuracy of his judgment. Nevertheless there are rumors-- I hope unfounded--that efforts are still being made to eviscerate education on "the sword of imperative retrenchment forged in the fires of an irrational depression." And so,

Robb: with the State Legislature soon to meet again in our capital, I want to talk with you tonight about the problem of adequate financial support for public education. I suggest this topic without apology, although I am obviously an interested party, because this is a meeting held under the auspices of the American Association of University Women, and my interest should therefore be no greater than your own. I suggest it, moreover, even though I am well aware of the disquieting fact of an unbalanced budget, and of the further fact that there are other agencies, both needing and deserving of public assistance, making demands on the state finances. Only the most narrowly partisan interest could press its own ends to the exclusion of other groups in the community; certainly not an accusation that can fairly be made against education.

But in the hubbub of contemporary life and politics, there is altogether too great a tendency to forget, or unceremoniously brush aside, the significant relation that education bears to the credit side of the ledger, particularly in a world so greatly dependent on technical science and technical experts, so greatly in need of leadership in the readjustment of its social structure. We are close--too close--to the next rows of figures in the mechanics of budget balancing. And so, lacking the necessary perspective, we are likely to turn to obvious savings that will cost us dearly in the end. This is particularly true of education where any one who stands off at a distance and takes an objective and dispassionate view of the situation must concede that the social values to be achieved in the long run offset by far the temporary financial gains to be realized by effecting unwarranted economies. Just as I would concede readily, and have often conceded publicly, that education cannot go on as usual in the disordered world of today, that school men must take stock, must look through microscopic lenses on long established forms, must make a critical examination of the system in all its parts, and must effect changes in the direction of simplicity and economy.

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Let me take the University of California as an example. The legislature of 1933 gave the University \$4,267,308 less for the current biennium than it had received for the previous two years. This was a reduction of 25 per cent.

Robb:

If funds for capital improvements are omitted, the cut in the operating budget was \$3,016,308 or almost 20 per cent. The reduction in the total state budget, including capital improvements, was 12 per cent. The University fought for more just treatment but it did not sulk when it failed. Instead, it retrenched and did a first-class job within its new and reduced limits. The curriculum was revised and readjusted. Duplicate courses were eliminated; relatively unnecessary courses dropped. The teaching load was increased. Economies were effected in administration and plant operation. Salaries were, of course, sharply reduced, particularly in the upper brackets. This action, forced upon the Regents by a lack of funds, was most unfortunate in many cases, and its harshness was embittered by the fact that few other State departments or activities found themselves under this compulsion. To bear one's share of a common misfortune is one thing; to be singled out for harsh treatment is quite another.

Not all has been lost during the current biennium, of course, for under pressure we have been stimulated to do some of our work less expensively, more simply, perhaps more efficiently. But we feel now that we have done our part, that the regimen of self-criticism and self-denial has gone far enough, and that a further continuation of the Gandhi diet will inevitably injure our vitality and impair our effectiveness, leaving us not one of the great universities of America (cf. the Report of the American Council on Education), but just another college. We are, therefore, asking the legislature of 1935 for a slightly increased appropriation.

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A parting word.

The times grow more strenuous rather than less so. What the future bodes for us no man can tell. But what we desire of the future we well know. We want a rebirth of not only economic and political values, but of spiritual values as well. The old adage that man does not live by bread alone holds true even in a contemporary world endeavoring to hide its bewilderment behind masks of sophistication and its heartaches behind a flippant demeanor.

Robb: Men will turn more and more for nourishment to the ideas of the philosophers and poets whose values are housed in our libraries. The hardened shells which have grown up about all too many of us as we have worried ourselves through recent years must give way to the softening influence of things more vital and precious than the material can ever be. Otherwise, we run straight into catastrophe.

In the days ahead, education will be called on to assume greater and more arduous burdens. It will not complain, but will rejoice that to it a still wondering community turns for comfort as well as succor. But it hopes that it will be prepared in facilities and personnel to render the greater public service of which it knows itself capable. Not through any fault of its own will it be found wanting. Earnestly it prays that its endowment may be comparable with the duties it stands ready to perform.

University Budget and State Support

Robb: The Depression years passed and the state and the University prospered, but all through the years the President was the watch dog of the treasury. While the faculty and departments grumbled and pled for more money, he attempted to divide the funds as he thought was best for the University as a whole.

Nathan: Did he also scrutinize budgets after they came to him, having been worked over by local campuses? Then did he give them another going-over?

Robb: Yes. On the final budget, he worked hard and long. He had a quick mind, particularly adept at figures. He was pretty economical in what might be known as frills, as against some of the more basic things. He was always looking for savings in order to provide something important. As I've mentioned, at what were called the closing entries, departments made requests for sizable projects, and if he didn't think that was a proper budgetary item for that year--or even a budgetary item (it might be considered in the future and would be regarded as a non-recurrent, specialized item)--he would provide it from the extra funds of the closing savings.

Robb: Mr. Sproul had a very honest working arrangement with the state. Many funds were, you know, not state funds. We were very rich in large contributions: professorships and endowments. The Hooper Foundation in San Francisco was a big enterprise, as was the Institute of Child Welfare. In some cases, notably the Rockefeller Foundation, they would provide a start. Their support would continue for five years, and the University would take over after that. That requires long-time planning, of course.

Nathan: Right. The seed-money idea. Did the University ever submit a deficit budget to the Legislature, or a budget that went in the red?

Robb: I don't think so; and I don't think Mr. Sproul ever presented a budget that was excessively padded. In any reports or statements, he wanted to present a workable budget. It would not be an extravagant budget.

Nathan: Did President Sproul ever find that the Legislature either would refuse to grant the total amount, or that the Governor would blue-pencil part of it?

Robb: Yes, I think so--many times.

Nathan: So then he would have to re-work the budget to some extent?

Robb: Yes. I remember way back in the twenties, the Legislature hadn't settled on the budget by the time July 1st came, and so nobody knew what was going to happen.

Nathan: I don't know if you can generalize, but if a cut were necessary and the budget already had no fat in it, then is there another procedure in determining how to cope?

Robb: Many times the budget was reduced. It would come back and we'd just work it over and cut here and there.

Nathan: I have the image of his working with a compliant Legislature, but it seems that was not the case at all.

Robb: No, oh, no.

Nathan: And then Mr. Sproul would personally supervise this re-working of the budget?

Robb: Yes. Of course, he had material furnished him by the accounting office. He had two budgeteers; one was Miss Josephine Smith.

Robb: Miss Smith he brought up from the Accounting Department when he became President, and she was known as the budget clerk for some 20 years. Then, things got more and more complicated. Mr. Sproul very often met in Sacramento at special, but not regular hearings; it would be by special appointment. But it wasn't part of his policy, and it was always a very tight spot if he had to go.

Mr. Ellis Groff was employed by the State Department of Finance, as an interviewer. Mr. Sproul was so impressed with the attacks he made on his budget that he wanted Mr. Groff in his corner, and he tried for quite a little while to get him. Finally he succeeded. And that was what Mr. Sproul wanted; he never wanted a "yes" man--under no circumstances did he want a "yes" man. He didn't always take what the other one said, but he wanted a point of view.

Mr. Sproul ran the office and the President's House in the same way. The University had always provided an allowance for the maintenance of the house. If he and Mrs. Sproul had any company--house guests or dinner guests--who were not official guests, they always entered that deduction on their reimbursement.

The secretary took all the expenses and then divided them by the number of people who were official guests and who were the family's. It went through the Accounting Department; in that way it always showed. In other words, he was that meticulous about being careful with state funds.

Mr. Sproul was always open and above board with the Governors of the state. They would negotiate on a certain basis and then live by that. Mr. Sproul put all the cards on the table and they did too. They had all through the years extremely good relations, which he developed when he was a comptroller, and when he was President it paid dividends because on the whole, the Governors and the legislators had an understanding of the University and its problems and were very sympathetic to it.

Earl Warren was perhaps the most understanding, but not the only Governor who was friendly. Some of them were Democrats. Mr. Sproul was a Republican, but that didn't matter.

Relationships with Private Colleges and Universities

Nathan: You were saying a little earlier, speaking of cultivating institutions, that President Sproul of the University of California and President Sterling of Stanford had a good understanding between them and that President Sproul had some concern for the development of Stanford University.

Robb: In the very early days of his administration, before UCLA had developed to institutional size but was still in an embryonic state as far as the University was concerned--he felt definitely that Stanford could well be developed within its own area. He felt that the two Universities would not be competitors as such, but that each could develop in its own area.

He didn't express that very often, but I do remember that in the early days he said, "We can't be successful unless Stanford also is successful." It gave them a common ground, and he and the President of Stanford were always very congenial and cooperative. They considered mutual problems, and they did have mutual problems.

He used to speak of Stanford at football time and other times as "Our friendly enemy," and that really was the status of Stanford--a friendly enemy. He deplored children of California graduates going to Stanford. He thought that was heresy.

Nathan: From your description of his view of the development of Stanford, is it your impression that he did not see privately supported colleges and universities as a threat to the University of California?

Robb: No, I don't think he did. I think he thought "each man for himself." It was up to him to cultivate the University of California, and the others had a place in the educational system as private institutions. Nor would he in any way have stifled the smaller or the private institutions. As a matter of fact, he was very close to many of the presidents--President Byrd, President Lyons, and President Blaisdell. There were more smaller institutions in the south than here. Most of the private institutions in the north, as I look back, were Catholic institutions.

Fund-Raising as an Aspect of Administration

Robb: In the Sproul and earlier administrations the State of California provided support for the University. As Mr. Sproul said,

The University of California is a public institution; as such it has derived the greatest part of its support from State appropriations. Without this long-established tradition of adequate State support, it could not have achieved its present enviable position of national and international eminence among the world's educational institutions, nor could it have attracted, in the same measure, the generous, continuing support that it has received from private sources.

There was no organized program for the solicitation of gifts. Of course, there were many projects in which departments or faculty members were interested, but these campaigns had to be approved by The Regents on recommendation of the President. This was to eliminate indiscriminate solicitation in the name of the University.

Large endowment funds for research, faculty chairs, etc. were within the province of the President and at one time the University of California was perhaps the most fortunate of all state institutions in its private endowments. Familiar ones that come to mind are the Sather Trust, the Hooper Foundation, the William Andrews Clark, Jr., and the Scripps Institution. Even after he retired, Mr. Sproul got a quarter of a million dollars from the Booth Estate for the Earl Warren Legal Center. Mr. Sproul's desire was to foster interest in the University whether on the part of prominent persons or "nobodies." To this end he bent his best efforts. Both he and Mrs. Sproul spent much time and energy in cultivating persons who could bestow their wealth and influence on the University. As an example, the University received some \$6 million from Earle C. Anthony, an alumnus of the University. Mr. Anthony was ill and lonely. He enjoyed both Mr. and Mrs. Sproul, and many trips to Palm Springs had to be fitted into the Sproul busy calendar. They really inconvenienced themselves, but the result was the \$6 million and a campus publications building, called the Pelican Building.

Robb: But times and conditions changed, and it became necessary to establish fund-raising agencies, such as the University of California, Berkeley Foundation here and the UCLA Foundation at Los Angeles.

Blake House and Other Acquisitions

Nathan: Thinking of University gifts and acquisitions, I was reminded of Blake House. Did Mr. Sproul have anything to do with obtaining that property for the University?

Robb: Yes, Mr. Sproul was instrumental in securing the Blake property. He was a great friend of Mr. Blake's through their Y connections of some 50 years. The Regents did not acquire it until the death of Mr. and Mrs. Blake, and after Mr. Sproul's retirement. There are many rare plant specimens on the property, and it is used as a laboratory for the University. The house happened to be incidental. It was used first, I think, as a residence for graduate students, but that didn't prove very satisfactory.

Then the house was restored and a considerable sum of money was spent on it. It is beautiful, and was a lovely home with beautiful things in it, which all came to the University. Some of them have been distributed to various campuses to furnish the local chancellors' homes. It is now the official residence of the President of the University, and is indeed an asset for the University.

Nathan: Right. Were there other properties that come to mind, that were given to the University during Mr. Sproul's administration?

Robb: There were one or two at Los Angeles. One was the Vavra property.

I don't think the physical side of the campus was very important to Mr. Sproul. That's evident in this building [Sproul Hall]; he had certain things he wanted, not all of which were recognized or accepted by the architect. He wanted a beautiful campus, but not at the expense of great funds to maintain it.

The campus had lots of flowers at the time Mr. Sproul became President. The Depression called for curtailment of gardening and maintenance on the campus. Time and numbers have taken care

Robb: of it, because most of the spare places have been taken up by concrete.

Mr. Sproul was interested in the acquisition of academic things. The Botanical Garden up in the hills--he was interested in the development of that, and worked closely with Professor Thomas Goodspeed. Very early in the Sproul administration, he solicited funds for a Redwood grove on the campus. I will have more to say about this later on.

Nathan: Did Mr. Sproul have much to do with land acquisition for campuses?

Robb: The expansion of the campuses was part of the President's responsibility. The matter came to him through the architectural offices, and then he would recommend to the Regents what he regarded as proper for expansion. The negotiation to acquire the land was not the responsibility of the President's office.

Nathan: I see. I was thinking both of expanding the Berkeley campus and of setting up the new campuses.

Robb: Yes. The decisions on campuses and determining registration numbers were set up by the Regents about 1956, I would say, on recommendation of the President, when additional campuses were considered. The acquisition and development of Santa Barbara were in Mr. Sproul's day; and the change of Davis from an agricultural to a general university grew out of the post-war rise in numbers of students, which raised questions as to how the University could best serve particular areas in the state. As I recall, the location of the Santa Cruz campus had not been settled by the time he retired, although I think it was to be in that general area.

Nathan: Did President Sproul take an active part in determining how the University's investment portfolio should be managed?

Robb: No, only as a member of the finance committee. That was the treasurer's business.

V WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY: A DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Robb: As I mentioned earlier, developing a distinguished faculty was a major cornerstone of Mr. Sproul's administration, and one that he emphasized from the beginning.

On July 1, 1930, in answer to a question as to what he hoped to make of the University, he said:

I hope to make the University an efficient and dependable servant of the State, in the training of teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers and other members of the professions, in the production of good citizens and in the discovery of new knowledge in every field of nature and of human experience. I believe it can be efficient and dependable only as it selects those who are to enjoy its opportunities and then holds them to high and vigorous standards of accomplishment. This applies to faculty as well as students.

I do not regard the administration of this or any university as a business problem. It is, however, a problem of organization in an institution with seven campuses, 51 departments, 1600 teachers and thousands of students; and one who knows intimately the problems of those campuses, departments, teachers and students and who has made a career of university administration may be helpful in solving that problem. However, the purpose of the university is education, and the methods of education are the responsibility of the guild of scholars and of no administrator whatsoever, academic or otherwise.

Robb: Again in 1930 before the Commonwealth Club of California, he said:

The glory of a university is obviously the men who constitute the faculty. It cannot be too often repeated that it is men and nothing but men who make education. The reason why the University of California occupies the high position it does throughout the academic world is that there has never been a time when its faculty could not boast men who were finding their way along rough trails, illuminated only by the spark of genius, to the heights of scholarship.

He was determined to acquire and hold the best minds he could find.

Retaining the Faculty

Robb: Early in his administration he was put to the test. In 1931, Edward C. Tolman, Professor of Psychology, received an offer from Harvard University for a professorship. Mr. Sproul was able to persuade him he could find opportunities at California as good as or better than at Harvard. Professor Tolman stayed through Depression, war and the oath controversy to emeritus status.

A year or so later, a young assistant professor had an offer for a professorship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and he too remained to reach emeritus status at the University of California. He was Robert B. Brode.

I think Mr. Sproul established early a rapport with the faculty. He was honest and sympathetic with them, and very often thoughtful. He would telephone a man when his promotion had been approved. These little niceties cemented him to the persons on the faculty.

In addition, in the article he wrote for There Was Light, Paul Taylor said, "I shall never forget President Robert Gordon Sproul's Christmas Eve present of a semester's leave for further research on Mexican immigration, a request he could have easily denied." Mr. Sproul was sympathetic to the faculty's problems, personal and otherwise.

Robb: I think it helped that he started out by knowing a great deal about the University. He had spent almost all of his adult life here and he knew the intricacies of the institution. He was determined to know the faculty--not the paper work on the faculty, but the faculty members themselves--so that when it came time for him to act on a promotion he knew the man and his qualifications as well as his relations with the other members of the staff. Mr. Sproul had a personal knowledge of almost every one. Other contacts with faculty members were just in the normal course of events, when paths would cross, or he would see a reference somewhere along the line.

Nathan: Could I ask you a question? You mentioned that Mr. Sproul took care to know the faculty members as people, and then I understood you to say that he wasn't too familiar with paper work. Were you referring possibly to their applications?

Robb: I didn't mean to suggest that. I meant that he didn't have to interpret the paperwork. In other words, the recommendations of the faculty he would read and understand. He didn't disregard the paper record, but he understood the report; in addition to that, he had personal knowledge of the man himself and his strengths and weaknesses. He had a great respect for teaching, and in some cases promoted somewhat in opposition to members of the faculty who didn't think some one had produced enough. That kind of development wasn't general, but it happened at times where he thought there was a special case.

Mr. Sproul had great respect for research and scholarship. For example, in a letter to a retiring professor, he wrote:

Any university president who is even vaguely aware of the facts of life knows that such success as he may achieve is but a pale reflection of the accomplishments of the scholars and researchers who keep the institution alive and active.

Questions of Advancement

Robb: With respect to advancement in general, the President would act primarily on the basis of the faculty assessment of an individual. Sometimes the salary entered into it; sometimes it was just a routine salary adjustment that followed the scale of salaries that the faculty of the University has.

Robb: Sometimes Mr. Sproul would delay his approval; sometimes he would disapprove. But in that, he always explained his decisions--sometimes to the man himself. (I found all kinds of notes relating to occasions when he called in a man and said, "Now, this is an adverse report I have for you," and tried to ameliorate the man's feelings. Apparently he did because we didn't have big flare-ups, you know--campus repercussions. I can't say never, but the decisions were generally accepted because he had a very persuasive manner.) He was very considerate as he softened the blows and helped a man understand what had happened.

A number of faculty people had problems that were real. I think of one of his first, that was a very difficult situation. The man stayed through Mr. Sproul's entire administration; this suggests that he had a human side in handling difficult situations. Sometimes there was a problem and the person had to be dismissed. I still have letters from those people indicating that there was an understanding. The human side to him, you know, I think was very important.

Nathan: So these were really personal relationships that existed?

Robb: Oh, yes, very personal relationships. And that was true of his relations with the Regents too.

In case he had to fire or fail to promote a man, Mr. Sproul made it a sort of father-son relationship, with consideration and understanding, which he was able to convey. And then too, he was never accused of being too pro this or that or too intimate with one person as against another. He maintained a pretty good equilibrium, a pretty well balanced position.

That also was reflected in the way he came to decisions. As I said, he never made a decision under emotional stress. He always had his facts in order.

Mr. Sproul made it a point to know every person who was coming up for promotion so that he could better evaluate the reports of the department, promotion and budget committees. With the coming of the Chancellors, Mr. Sproul acted only on tenure cases. He missed the closer association with the younger members of the staff. He did make appointments to committees personally on administrative business. He also established advisory committees of the various colleges, appointing leaders in industry or the profession involved, and often presided at their meetings, thus familiarizing himself with the problems of the college concerned, as well as the non-University members.

Some Advisors

Robb: Mr. Sproul was fortunate in the early days of his administration in the advice he sought and received from such elder statesmen as Professors A.O. Leuschner, George P. Adams, George Louderback, Edmund O'Neill, and Joel Hildebrand, to name a few. I don't think Mr. Sproul ever made a major decision without consulting persons on both sides of the question and then drawing his own conclusion.

Mr. Sproul had a great feel for the faculty--both as a body and as individuals. He took great pride in its quality. A colleague on the Rockefeller Board wrote congratulations concerning a survey in 1957. On the basis of the study of the departments of physical, social sciences and the humanities, the University of California had ranked ninth in 1925, and in 1957 was second only to Harvard.

Ernest Lawrence as a Young Professor

Robb: Because of the standing of the faculty, many were receiving offers from other institutions. One of the chief recipients was Ernest Lawrence who received offers from Harvard, Yale, Texas, and Northwestern. Fortunately, he chose to stay with the University of California in spite of the fact that some offers were very appealing.

Mr. Sproul promised Ernest Lawrence that he would do his best to provide a laboratory for him; and he did. Mr. Sproul started with Mr. William Crocker, a Regent, who gave \$75,000, a sizeable sum in those days. That was for the first cyclotron. It was in 1940 that Mr. Sproul secured a grant of \$1.5 million from the Rockefeller Foundation subject to his raising \$250,000.

Mr. Sproul really was the father of the Radiation Laboratory. He did his best to support the men who were doing the work. During the war, there were large government contracts.

Nathan: Were the government contracts negotiated in the President's Office?

Robb: No, they were not.

Nathan: I see. With respect to Ernest Lawrence, who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1938, perhaps we don't know so much about his

Nathan: University years before that. Do you know about his early years?

Robb: I do know that in 1928, at the age of 27, Ernest Lawrence came to the University from Yale as an Associate Professor. In less than two years he received an offer from Northwestern and was immediately recommended by our Department of Physics for a full professorship, but the budget committee turned it down. Unwilling to accept this recommendation, President Sproul sought a new committee which did recommend promotion.

Among the exhibits presented to the committee was one from a Yale professor (Swann) under whom Lawrence had done most of his graduate work. Professor Swann predicted that within ten years Lawrence would rank among the ten leading physicists in the country. Mr. Sproul said if there was one chance in ten that was a true prediction, he was willing to take the chance. The promotion was approved and Lawrence became the youngest full professor in the history of the University.

Some Nobel Laureates

Robb: As Professor Raymond Birge wrote to Mr. Sproul,

Under any previous president, we would have lost Lawrence. At that time you were 39 years old, just ten years older than Lawrence, and when he was just ten years older, he was awarded the Nobel Prize, thus brilliantly confirming Swann's prediction and confirming your faith in him.

At the time of Mr. Sproul's retirement there were six Nobel Laureates and five later recipients who had been long-time members of the faculty of the University under President Sproul. This would indicate he had met his requirement of building a distinguished faculty.

Credit should also be given to Professor Birge because he developed so many stars and never spared promoting them. Many chairmen of departments think, "Well, Professor so-and-so has to come along; but we mustn't put him over this other one," and so on. But never Professor Birge. If the professor was a good man-- "my boy"--then he'd go all out for him. I don't know how many

Robb: Nobel Prize winners and others he helped. There were Ernest Lawrence, and Luis Alvarez, and Melvin Calvin, and Edwin McMillan, and William Giauque.

He helped so many. That's why I always called him Papa Birge.

There were many other tempting offers made to faculty members, too numerous to mention, but Mr. Sproul met most of the others. He was anxious not to lose a leader, but he was also anxious not to jeopardize the general salary scale by having too many raised too far above their colleagues. In many cases he could not meet the salary offer, but he was able to promise added research and equipment facilities. To many this was more important than the salary in terms of their research interests.

Speaking of Mr. Sproul's aim not to overbalance faculty salaries, he refused to accept salary increases for himself that put him out of line with top faculty salaries. The Regents insisted the President should have a larger salary but he was adamant. As a result, the Regents provided him with an automobile and Mrs. Sproul with a secretary. She settled for a half-time person.

Nathan: Yes, that's an interesting point. Thinking again of the quality of the faculty that President Sproul had assembled, was there ever a point at which he decided specifically to go after Nobel Prize winners and bring them on campus?

Robb: No. Just the best he could find for the University. He had better luck at Berkeley in attracting top-flight people than in the early days at UCLA. But that changed as time went on, and he assembled a fine faculty at UCLA in a relatively short period of time. UCLA also developed a good library, large contributions and art collections. Of course, Mr. Sproul had help from leaders in the community, such as Regent Dickson, who was chairman of the board for a number of years and very active and knowledgeable in the community affairs of Los Angeles.

An Acting Dean at the Medical School

Robb: In 1940 a search for a new dean of the Medical School to succeed Doctor Langley Porter was not proving successful, and the appointment of an acting dean from the San Francisco campus seemed inadvisable. In those days the various schools had their own deans. There was no overall administrator. The Medical School was the largest, and the dean of that school was considered the leader. Unless the selection of an acting dean had a very good chance of appointment, it might prove embarrassing and unwise to choose a "local" man. Therefore Mr. Sproul thought the temporary appointment should be from off campus, and a man of standing. He thought Doctor Deutsch the ideal candidate but he was unwilling to take on the assignment, so Mr. Sproul decided to do the job himself.

He took an office in the Medical School and traveled to San Francisco three days a week for some weeks. He found the experience very rewarding. Mr. Sproul learned first-hand some of the problems of the San Francisco campus and got to know personally most of the faculty. It was the beginning of a much-needed closer communication between the two campuses.

As President of the University he was ex officio member of the faculty--and as dean, ex officio, signed diplomas both as Acting Dean and President of the University. Probably a first!

The Loyalty Oath

Robb: I must not ignore the oath controversy, an unfortunate episode that occurred at the height of the [Senator Joseph] McCarthy era in which tempers and emotions ran high. Many will have written about it and there will be many versions, but I will confine my remarks to the personal side of Mr. Sproul's part. He spent hours of the day and night in conferences with friend and foe, and tried his utmost to arrive at a peaceful solution. There was, of course, more to the problem than the signing of an oath--a point of view the public could not understand. Mr. Sproul's efforts were for the preservation of the University and the protection of the rights of the faculty.

Robb: After a long and arduous period, the courts ruled in favor of the non-signers. Some of those who resigned because of the issue returned to the faculty, chief of whom was one young man who later became the fourteenth President of the University. I refer, of course, to David Saxon. Another was Edward Teller, known as the Father of the H-Bomb, who changed his mind and accepted in 1953 the appointment of Professor of Physics.

The leader of the "fight" within the Regents was John Francis Neylan, a one-time good friend and supporter of the President. Some of his very good friends on the board opposed Mr. Sproul bitterly, but he did not lose his respect or regard for them, or they for him, and the friendships formed earlier continued throughout his life. The record shows no evidence of resentment or vindictiveness on his part. In fact he told me many times, he did not hate Regent Neylan. Mr. Sproul thought he was a sick man.

It was a sad chapter in the history of the University, but fortunately the institution maintained its position of leadership and continues to attract the best minds of students and faculty. The University is still a leader in Guggenheim, Fulbright, and National Academy appointments--and Nobel laureates.

Nathan: This has been most interesting to see your clear-eyed view of the years with President Sproul.

Robb: I don't think they are so clear now.

Nathan: Still, you are recounting the way things were and the way they seemed. It may be that everything can't be black and white exactly. There's always ambiguity.

Robb: I think that was part of Mr. Sproul's success. He recognized that you have to aim for excellence, but you can't be perfect. He was always willing to concede, if it was proper, and would really gain a greater end. That's important, because this thing of saying, "I won't" or "You can't" doesn't always get you any place. He had a place in the "hearts and minds of his countrymen."

Robb: Here is an excerpt from a letter to President Sproul that illustrates the point, I think:

(dated) June 26, 1958

During this last week of your remarkable tenure as President of the University, you have been very much on my mind. I will not write up the "4 paragraphs" that your directives have required us to prepare in evaluating our colleagues; I will simply say that you rank "at the top" under all categories. You began as President in the year in which I was first employed as an instructor, and this accident has given me an unusual basis for judging and appreciating your massive contribution toward changing (for the better) the character of the University. You have placed your stamp upon the place, and we have been the beneficiaries.

One of the great disadvantages, of course, in the University--as it has grown in scope and complexity since 1930--is that the individual members of the faculties have necessarily been denied the opportunities for close association with their President. They have had to stand by and admire from a certain distance, and I have not always had the opportunities to serve that I might have hoped for--in which I am by no means alone. It is, however, a source of very real pride for me to recall occasions when I have been brought into special relations with you. Every such relation has only strengthened my admiration for the grand job you have done. No one else could have done it!

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Women at the University

Robb: You were asking about the role of women in his administration. I think Mr. Sproul was ahead of the Women's Lib movement.

Robb: In 1931, in welcoming students to the University, he said:

In particular, I welcome the women students this morning, a function usually delegated by the President to the Dean of Women. This departure from tradition does not indicate any lack of confidence in the truly distinguished woman who occupies that deanship in our University, but merely a feeling that some of the women may appreciate being noticed by a man. From the very beginnings of this University, men and women have been admitted on equal footing, the same opportunities being extended to both of them. The women enter here, not under the stigma of condescension, but under the challenge of recognition. They are simply part of the youth to which the University offers its intellectual leadership. Women here accept the challenge of the University just as the men do. In turn, they should challenge the University by their ability to combine social interest, physical welfare, and intellectual activity; by contributing their best to scholarship and winning places as creative thinkers; by seeking to work, not for the best interests of women, but for the best interests of the University as a whole; by representing the University of California to the West in such a way that the University may be proud of them. Along these lines throughout the history of this institution they have shown themselves to be worthy of its confidence.

And again in 1934, President Sproul wrote:

What does the Committee on Public Relations propose to do to bring women into its activities and to enlist the support of the women of the state for the University? At present this powerful force in the body politic is too often ignorant and critical.

I think he felt he was mildly rebuffed in his attempts to cultivate this large segment of society, and in the next year or so appealed to Mr. Robert Sibley, Executive Manager of the California Alumni Association. Here again, progress was slow.

But Mr. Sproul never underestimated the power of a woman!

Robb: While there were not a great many women on the faculty, there were those who had attained a place in their field of endeavor. He counseled with them. For instance, there were Lucy Ward Stebbins, Jessica Peixotto, Agnes Fay Morgan, Barbara Armstrong, and Olga Bridgman, all of whom eventually received honorary degrees from the University. He consulted with those in public affairs and influential in the alumni body.

I would say his recognition of women and their place in society was demonstrated by the fact in his 28 years as President he conferred the honorary degree of doctor of laws on 20 women and until 1974, he had appointed the only woman Charter Speaker in the history of the University. She was Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor under President Roosevelt.

For some 20 years, as I mentioned earlier, his budget officer was a woman.

VI THE PRESIDENT AND THE STUDENTS

Robb: No record of Mr. Sproul would be complete without a discussion of his attitude toward youth and his relations with students. As a boy, and later as a student, he was an active participant in sports of various kinds. He was a track man. He probably got his early training walking from his home in the Mission District of San Francisco to Sunday school on Mason Street, and later walking to Golden Gate Park to play tennis and sometimes waiting for a court, where he played with such stars as Maurice McLaughlin and William Johnson as well as lesser lights.

As a result, he was a two-miler in college.

His early religious training was the basis for his character and his outlook on life. He never lost his youth or his support of youth. He once said, "No matter how many grey beards say otherwise, mankind must go inevitably in the direction that youth takes." To him, life was a great adventure and the University was the place to play the game.

The University of California was a part of him. He once said, "The University is not only a thing of steel and bricks and concrete, of grades and units and mechanisms. Far more clearly, it is a fellowship of men and women inspired by the love of learning and devoted to the quest for truth."

It was a place for the realization of ideals, for deep-rooted loyalties, and where enduring friendships were made. He loved the students and welcomed them at his weekly student hours, both in Berkeley and Los Angeles. They were well attended. Some students came in to meet him, some just to see what he was like, and some to gripe. He always investigated gripes, and if reasonable,

Robb: improved the situation and reported back to the student. Some came in as freshmen, returned frequently, and ended up as student leaders.

Nathan: Your remarks about the student hour, in which the students could come in and talk to the President, suggested that he played a sort of Ombudsman role.

Robb: Yes, he did. The students came without appointments. He had a set time, and he had a great many come to the hour.

With the advent of the Chancellors, the student hour was given up, and I think he missed the students greatly. He understood their point of view. He called upon them for support; he spoke their language and knew the jargon of the day. As his own children grew and became students--all three at Berkeley in the late thirties and early forties--the President's House was a welcoming place for students.

Views on Fraternities and Sororities

Nathan: Very good. I did also want to ask you about a passing remark concerning President Sproul's feeling that he could call on the fraternity people for help.

Robb: Let me think about that so that I can bring you an appropriate example. During the FSM, he would have marshalled not only fraternities but organized groups--the students who were sympathetic to organized groups--to offset the dissidents. He did that on many occasions. Maybe it was a practical matter, because it was a ready-made sort of support. But the fraternities, of course, were dwindling, partly because of the social structure and partly because the need for the fraternities and sororities seemed to be over.

There's a rejuvenation as of now, but in Mr. Sproul's day--in my day--and through much of his administration, student activities were confined to the campus. The senior ball was on the campus in the very early days. They re-did old Harmon Gym to glamorize it.

Students went to hotels later on. Any students having automobiles available, went to cities for commercial entertainment rather than staying on campus. I think the inter-fraternity

Robb: athletic affairs probably disappeared. That I don't believe was peculiar to Mr. Sproul's administration; that was a sign of the times.

Mr. Sproul was a believer in fraternities and sororities. He was a member of a local club which, through the years, had offers to affiliate with many of the best national fraternities, and they elected always to maintain their local status. It was Abracadabra, and it had many distinguished lawyers and doctors as members.

It wasn't until past the middle sixties that they finally merged with the Delta Chi fraternity on the campus, and that was done regretfully by many of the old Abracadabra members. Mr. Sproul was treasurer for about 50 years, and active in the organization. During his presidency, if his calendar permitted he would go to the fraternity's annual alumni association meeting when they met with the actives. Generally, he spoke. Sometimes the meetings were geared to his calendar. In other words, he was an active participant; he believed in the fraternity and sorority systems and their value to the University.

In the early days, they provided housing first, and then social life for the members.

Student Housing

Nathan: This brings us to another question. What was President Sproul's view with respect to the University's responsibility to provide housing? I'm thinking of the development of the dormitories.

Robb: He was not in favor of that; he thought that private industry and the families should provide the housing and the state provide the educational facilities. He did not regard it a function of the University or the state. Unfortunately, from his point of view, the Smyth dormitories were set up in the short period when he was away on the Allied Commission on Reparations, a commission appointed by President Truman. He was gone approximately five or six months, and during that time, Dr. Deutsch secured Regents' approval for setting up these residence halls, the argument being that they were to be temporary--forty years.

Robb: I don't know; Mr. Sproul, with changing social conditions, may have changed his own point of view.

Nathan: Did he ever attempt to deal with the students' complaints that available facilities were expensive and unhealthy--that there were not adequate places available in the community?

Robb: I think that was the dean's job.

Nathan: So in the hierarchy, such complaints would go to the dean?

Robb: Yes. I don't recall. There must have been incidents, you know, when the situation was very bad, but the complaints would come by way of the Dean's Office. I don't want to get into the administration of the University; I'm talking only about Mr. Sproul.

Nathan: Was Bowles Hall developed during President Sproul's administration?

Robb: Yes, that was a gift, as was Stern Hall.

Now, for not all of these gifts did he come with hat in hand; but he cultivated the people and sold them on the University. It was not a crude method. But, for instance, the Booth contribution to the Earl Warren Legal Center was definitely a gift for that particular thing at this particular time. But the others were the outgrowth of cultivating support for the institution; people were concerned for it and, as a result, contributed.

The Daily Californian and Other Problems

Robb: There were other problems. The Daily Californian was taking on the agriculturalists at one time, way back.

Nathan: How did he see that situation?

Robb: He saw it very seriously. He had many conferences with the editors of the paper, who were students, because they were carrying the banner. I think he felt that the Californian (which gave him many problems over the years) was going outside its jurisdiction.

Nathan: What did he see as the jurisdiction of the student newspaper?

Robb: Campus affairs, primarily. Not to the extent of the paper's being just a house organ, but neither should it be a paper to enter into and take positions that may or may not have been helpful to the University. When were you on the Californian?

Nathan: I think during a good part of this period. I was on the paper from '37 through '40. I do recall the editors being interested, for example, in farm worker housing. They struggled with questions of what was appropriate for a student newspaper to print, what issues they could deal with, and the question of whether stating that they were speaking only for themselves, and not for the University, was sufficient. The whole issue was very hot.

Robb: Yes, it was hot, and it was a worry for the President. As a matter of fact, he appointed a committee of former editors and former Californians to consider the place the Californian had in the scheme of things. I know the committee must have had students on it; there were, at least, students consulted.

I wouldn't want to say whether anything ever came of it. Editors change, conditions change, and the war came along. Newton Drury was chairman of a committee of alumni to consider the problem, and I don't think they ever came up with a solution. Mr. Sproul was not in favor of censorship. He was in favor of leading the student leaders to a point where it was unnecessary for censorship as such.

Nathan: I wonder what happens when you try to lead the students and they don't want to be led?

Robb: Of course, there were many instances of that, and there, I think I should state again, Mr. Sproul was very firm. I found he would say, "Now this is it. This you cannot do." He was willing to compromise on many things, but beyond a point he wouldn't.

Many is the time a hand-delivered letter was sent to the student executive committee stating this, this and this. "If this is not done, then you will be severely punished."

Some Advice to Students

Robb: In all his speeches involving students, President Sproul exhorted them to participate in activities but not to lose sight of the fact that they were there to learn, to think, not to accumulate information. "Do not confuse education with information," he said. This excerpt from an early speech is typical of his advice to students.

If history repeats itself, you will hear much while you are here about freedom of speech, freedom of thought and freedom of assembly. The University of California never has, and I trust never will, stifle freedom of discussion. We do, however, draw the inevitable line between liberty and license--liberty that protects the rights of every individual and license to organize disorder. The disciples of discontent here and elsewhere develop a doctrine of despair, proclaim a program that, if it were realized in action, would deny to all but a particular group the liberties that they mouth and prate and demonstrate so much about.

And yet, there are in every student body sincere, young idealists, urgently anxious to right the wrongs of the mad world, who are particularly susceptible to this type of propaganda. Let me urge you to think straight and hard on these matters. Don't be fooled or deceived by sophistry, by casuistry, or by the constant seizing of issues that are not in question. Watch out especially for quick remedies peddled by egocentric psychopaths, be they conservative or radical, right or left. Don't hurry yourself into movements that seem to offer quick relief. Progress has never come from the heedless acceptance of easy panaceas.

The chief contribution that you can make to the welfare of humanity while you are a student in this University is to prepare yourself for effective, productive living. Your task is not to master government and society for untried and doubtful ends, but to master yourselves and the tools with which you must work if you are to accomplish anything.

The overwhelming need of today is the need of knowledge of contemporary problems. I urge you, with all you're getting here, get if you possibly can an understanding of the fundamental principles of government, economics and social

Robb: relations, together with the historical data illustrative of these. It is in order that you may have a fair chance to get this understanding that we fight for the theory and practice of academic freedom. In no other way can study be education and not propaganda.

That was in 1935, and it's very appropriate as of today.

Nathan: Did President Sproul get student views on these matters?

Robb: Yes, Mr. Sproul found students a great source of inspiration. As a student he was an active Golden Bear and continued as an alumnus and later as President. The society was made up of the senior leaders on the campus, and their meetings were forums for the deliberation of University problems. He often attended their meetings and spoke and delivered the ritual at their annual banquets, which incidentally attracted many prominent alumni members.

There is a similar organization on the Los Angeles campus, the Golden Bruin, which Mr. Sproul led the UCLA students to establish. Cal Club, which I have described elsewhere, is another channel of communication with student leaders.

Mr. Sproul believed a true university should develop the whole man and he used every means at his disposal to use his talents in this regard. He looked to the students to become leaders in the state and nation. He also saw them as loyal alumni on whom he could call for help in supporting their Alma Mater in time of need.

While he got to know many students through their organizations, he sought other opportunities on the campus. Just the other day one of the Berkeley campus policeman stopped me to ask about Mr. Sproul's health. He said back in 1932 when he was a freshman he was coming toward the President's House, the President was coming down the steps and waited for him. They walked across the campus to California Hall. He was so shy, but the President chatted with him about his plans and ambitions. He soon lost his shyness and enjoyed the walk.

The students and student problems were very much on Mr. Sproul's mind. He consulted many of them. His relations with the officers of the student body were somewhat similar to his relations with the faculty too. They had problems, and he helped in bringing about their solution.

Robb: From the beginning of his administration, Mr. Sproul invited student leaders to luncheons at his house, both in Berkeley and Los Angeles, at the opening of the college year, where the coming issues were discussed and personal contacts made. He had great faith in the students and enjoyed thrashing out problems. I don't think there was anything he enjoyed more than discussions with students, even dissident students, helping to mould their characters and make them better citizens.

He had policies which he was selling to students. He took a firm stand on many things. He was a great law and order man and was very firm in the positions he took with the students, and particularly in athletics. From the beginning, he thought that athletics should be a student activity and should not be commercialized. He believed implicitly in student self-government and tried to follow that policy. He looked to student leaders for guidance, and particularly through the honor societies.

Moulding the Views of Student Leaders

Nathan: If you'd care to comment on it, President Sproul apparently had a clear concept of the role of a President. Did he have any similar concept of what a student body was supposed to be? That is, was a student body, from his view, supposed to have any role in the running of the University or making decisions about it?

Robb: Not in terms of the present day, where they want to participate in the actual decisions. However, Mr. Sproul had a part in the decisions that the students made, and in moulding and leading the students in the direction that he thought they should go.

He didn't clamp down and bang his fist and say "You can't do this," but he had ways of saying "You can't do this," and he was firm in his policies.

As I said, he always discussed things seriously with the ASUC president. When issues were in the formative state, he had a knack of having a sense of what was coming up, so that he was aware of storm clouds on the horizon, and he would start early before things crystallized. He didn't always succeed, obviously, but he tried.

Robb: Then, as I said, he laid down the law. He used to get terribly distressed with some of the social problems students would bring in and they would agree on something, and they would leave all in good spirits, and the next morning they'd come back with the statement that they'd reported to their superiors but they didn't have any authority to make such an agreement. So then they'd start all over again--a typical communist technique. That happened over and over and over again. Then he would put his foot down and say, "This is it."

Disciplining Students

Nathan: Did Mr. Sproul have some sort of ultimate weapon? That is, could he say, "You will be expelled from the University" and have the power to do so?

Robb: Yes, he had that power. He didn't use it very often; he worked through the Dean's Office, where they had the power of suspension. There were three disciplinary grades. The President acted only on expulsion and no one could expel a student but the President; I don't know what the policy is now.

The student had a clear and a fair trial before any action was taken. Many times, Mr. Sproul would temper the winds because I think he thought he got farther by being firm but being reasonable in his firmness.

And the students respected it too. That didn't mean that he won every battle, but he spent a lot of time with his students; all through his administration, he spent time with them on their problems. We could always tell by the Daily Californian what kind of a day the office would have.

Civil Rights Philosophy

Robb: As I indicated earlier, Mr. Sproul was an ardent advocate of student self-government and believed in a free press and a free university. Many of his speeches give evidence of this.

Robb: His philosophy on civil rights was expressed in a radio broadcast when he was Chairman of the California Advisory Committee of the United States Commission on Civil Rights in 1959, when he said:

. . . You have asked me the question, "What is your personal philosophy regarding civil rights of our citizens?" To this I would reply that the challenge to me is moral and personal. I see my commitment to the committee and to the cause for which it stands as an ethical obligation to the realization of those values of deep respect for the individual, and the fullest development of each human mind and personality. Such values have been emphasized recently by the realization that if we do not achieve a world in which every child, regardless of his race, color or creed, can have an opportunity through education for his fullest possible development, there may be by the twenty-first century no world at all.

We shall not solve in the immediate present all of the problems in this area with which we are today concerned; we should not expect to. But in time, perhaps sooner than we think, and with faith in human intelligence, we shall. When this has been done, when words such as white and black, and Japanese and Chinese, cease to evoke images of race relations problems, then we may get on more directly with the even greater task of dealing with the many other issues, grand and petty, group and individual, tragic and comic, that confront us all.

To this consummation devoutly to be wished, I am dedicated in deepest sincerity, for I take my pledge of allegiance to the United States in all seriousness: One nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, regardless of race, or color, or country of origin.

Free Speech and a Hyde Park

Robb: He was firm, and because he was firm--because he meant it--he had respect. He didn't come to his decisions without some discussion and warning with the student leaders.

Nathan: Did he very often have occasion to really "crack down" and expel someone?

Robb: Yes. I don't recall off-hand, now, but there were such occasions. He was loath to do that; he always felt that he could save a sinner one way or another. But he was a great believer in free speech.

He tried to promote a "Hyde Park" on the campus. He wanted it down by the football statue down in the oaks or some place other than at Sather Gate.

I remember him talking--having troubles--through the years with Aubrey Grossman and Herbert Resner, both of whom are headliners today as attorneys for liberal causes. I think it's Grossman, isn't it, who is attorney for the Indians? Every time I see his name, I think of the trials and tribulations we went through in that turbulent time.

And Resner, too; they're both Boalt Hall graduates. They would come in many times and argue with Mr. Sproul, and they'd have a fine time. Mr. Sproul loved to argue with them, because he was an argumentative person. If he felt that he could win a point, that was fine.

At one time, I've forgotten now whether it was Resner who was challenging a speech Mr. Sproul had made. Mr. Sproul was very emphatic in taking the position: "I don't care whether you agree with what I say or not, but you cannot distort what I say." And that's what these kids would do; they'd go out and distort what he'd said. This particular time, Mr. Sproul had made a speech that they didn't like and they took him on. It didn't matter if they disagreed, but they couldn't distort.

Nathan: When the GI's came back to the campus after the war, did President Sproul change his views about what was suitable for students? It was a rather different student body, I gather, after the war, and I wonder if he altered any of his attitudes about what was appropriate for students when they were older?

Robb: I don't recall any incidents. He was not hidebound. At any time, he was willing to change his position, if they could convince him. That would be about '45, wouldn't it?

Nathan: Yes, and shortly thereafter.

Deans and Discipline

Robb: Well, he must have made some changes, because he couldn't have been insensitive to the signs of the times. I remember he did have troubles similar to the troubles of the 60's, when Chancellor Heyns was here. History repeats itself.

Nathan: Yes. Do you think President Sproul would not have agreed with bringing outside police onto the campus?

Robb: No. I think he was very firm in that position. A crime committed off the campus could be handled by the police. Any infractions on the campus--in the old days they used to rock the streetcars, you know, as University pranks--would be handled by the University and disciplined by the University. Criminal cases would be handled first by the University, before referring them to the police.

Nathan: Did Mr. Sproul have anything to do with setting up men's and women's student judicial committees?

Robb: I don't think so, at least not directly. He did not, as I recall, even approve them. (He might have disapproved of them.) No, they didn't have to come to him. How much responsibility the Dean's Office took was an independent matter. Of course, the dean was instructed by the President on the policy to be followed, and it was up to the dean to lead the students.

They had many troubles with the student executive committee not wanting to follow the rules, and Mr. Sproul many times had to strengthen the dean and the faculty representative. But in a good part of Mr. Sproul's administration we had Dean Thomas M. Putnam. Was he dean in your day?

Nathan: Part of the time.

Robb: He was a dean of the old school and, of course, he and the President grew up under the same policies and had the same philosophy. Chaffee Hall, who was the attorney for the ASUC, was also an Old Blue with the same philosophies as the President and Dean Putnam.

Dean Hurford Stone came in later. That was an interesting period, but that's more or less administrative. I may say I don't think he was a bad dean. He was not a popular dean, but he was a dean who was willing to stick his neck out and follow the procedures no matter what.

Speculation on the Sproul Campus Style

Nathan: You had made reference to the peace strikes of the thirties; I had almost forgotten all of that activity. Did this take place on the campus? Or outside Sather Gate?

Robb: Outside the gate. I think it's quite important compared to the FSM and the sit-ins, the approach he had to the problems. I also wonder if the times have changed or whether his policy then was as it should have been in the sixties.

Nathan: Yes, that would be an interesting comparison.

Robb: Obviously, there would have been changes, but I don't think very many. I think he would have stood pretty much on policies he set up, but more tailored to the temper of the times I'm sure. He would have listened (which was one of the complaints that the students had later) and I think he would have worked more in concert with both the faculty and the students and the dissidents, but he would have been firm.

Political Figures Appearing on Campus

Nathan: You might want to talk a little about a policy--and you can tell me if I'm remembering it correctly--about political candidates on campus, and even political issues. Do you remember how that was formulated?

Robb: Both sides had to be presented at the same meeting. We had that, and that became quite a problem. Harry Bridges is a well-known name who always wanted to speak on the campus. Harry Bridges could speak on the campus if he spoke before the Economics Society or a particular group who would sponsor him--have faculty sponsorship and be limited to the group which invited him.

There was a form they had to approve, and it had to have faculty sponsorship. In other words, you couldn't have anybody come in; the President didn't believe in that.

Mr. Sproul believed also that only two agencies could have meetings--one was the ASUC and one was the President. The ASUC could have their meetings, but they had to be officially sponsored ASUC meetings and/or University meetings or some lectures at which the President presided. He was pretty firm on it, very firm, in fact.

Norman Thomas was another example. They were always wanting Norman Thomas to speak under their auspices.

Nathan: That is, the ASUC wanted to or the faculty?

Robb: No--other groups, not the ASUC. He would have been glad to invite Norman Thomas, but that wasn't what they wanted. Sometimes they invited the speakers on their own and Mr. Sproul wouldn't permit it; that's when they spoke outside the campus.

Adlai Stevenson, who was a friend of Mr. Sproul--not intimate, but "Adlai and Bob" as they met in the east--was invited by some dissident group to speak, and Mr. Sproul wouldn't sponsor it and Stevenson couldn't speak on campus. He spoke outside. He mentioned that when he came and spoke later, do you remember?

Nathan: I do indeed, yes. I remember both occasions very well.

Robb: So, President Sproul was firm. But he was willing to yield also: "All right, you can have him, but we'll do it this way." But

Robb: that wasn't what they wanted; they wanted what they wanted when they wanted it.

Nathan: What was his reasoning?

Robb: That the University was not a political platform. It was supposed to be free of politics and religion, and he was very firm on that. You can have all shades but they must be balanced. And he was right, you know, because somebody speaks, and then all over the country, the meeting's misunderstood.

He had an example in the south when Dr. Moore dismissed four students. (He was vice president and provost of UCLA.) There were four of them, and that was a cause célèbre. I've really forgotten the details of it; but it was concerned with something against the rules, and Dr. Moore dismissed the students. Mr. Sproul reinstated them because he didn't think that decision was a proper one. He still gets letters from some, well, within the recent past. One of them became a Rhodes scholar. That was one of the few places where Mr. Sproul didn't support his administrator; he didn't think the decision was fair.

He was a believer in free speech, and free speech under proper auspices--not just anyone's auspices but proper auspices.

Social Advisors for the Students

Nathan: I see. Now turning from political to social matters, would you like to talk about the social advisors on campus?

Robb: Yes. Early in his administration, Mr. Sproul appointed a group of about 20 men and women on the faculty to serve as social advisors to students. Each person was given a token allowance, and each freshman student was assigned to an advisor's group. The purpose was to orient the students into the life of the campus and to prepare many, from far away places, on how life should be lived at Berkeley, and in urban areas. Some of them came from very isolated places and had no knowledge of the social amenities, and it helped them.

Nathan: I remember my advisor, Lucile Czarnowski, and two or three parties that she gave for her group. We made friendships that lasted all through the four years of school.

Robb: Yes. After the dean's office assigned each student to an advisor, they did whatever they wanted to do with the students. I was one of them, and I know I took one group to see Martha Graham. I had teas at which the hostesses wore long dresses and I asked faculty to attend. I remember one when Professor Hildebrand came and sat on the floor at the Women's Faculty Club with a group of girls.

The groups were very worthwhile. I don't know when they were discontinued. I don't know whether Mr. Sproul discontinued them or whether the Dean's Office took over orientation. I know when I stopped it was prior to the war days, wasn't it?

Nathan: Yes, I think so. I was thinking of the late thirties, primarily. And about how many were in your group, do you recall, each time?

Robb: We had about 70 or 80 non-sorority girls. Now, the Dean's Office has orientation programs. This was done in a very personal way; each one handled it differently. The advisors had no academic responsibilities, but they were a faculty contact for the bewildered students.

Receptions for New Students

Robb: The receptions for new students were held in Hearst Gymnasium for Women. Mr. and Mrs. Sproul stood in line. It was not arranged very satisfactorily. The faculty were worn out by the time they had "walked the miles." They had been invited to present a student to the President and his wife. It was a very unsatisfactory arrangement because each faculty person had a tremendous distance to walk from the time the student was introduced until he was presented. Many were exhausted after two or three round trips.

After the war, one or two receptions were held in Harmon Gymnasium, but that was just a big barn, an arena, no place to welcome new students to the University.

I asked Mr. Sproul if he would please let me handle the receptions. I said, "You can't ask the faculty to perform such an arduous task." They'd sit on the rail with their shoes off awaiting the next student to be escorted. "Well, okay." He thought I was too busy.

Robb: I thought we would have to do something to centralize things so it would be a pleasure for faculty as well as the students. I sent a wire to Garff Wilson, who was on vacation, and asked if he would help me put on a good reception. He was delighted.

Then we asked Professor Michael Goodman. We thought we would make this a real social affair. We had the receiving line centered so that the faculty had no distance to go. They met the student and introduced him to the President and Mrs. Sproul. The students did not have very long to wait. They could dance until just a few were in line, then the loudspeaker would announce when they could come to the line.

There was a reception hall where the faculty waited until they were needed. There was punch and cookies where they could socialize. Prior to meeting the students, the President and Mrs. Sproul met the faculty who had been invited. They rotated these invitations, with a couple of hundred perhaps, one year, then a different group the next year.

There was a good band. We had Ray Hackett, who did it for a long time because he had a good time too. It was a good dance band. He later was at the Fairmont Hotel for a long while and recently was President of the Bohemian Club. As time went on the groups of students got larger, and they had more than one band. The files are full of letters from fathers of students who had written home saying they had gone to the freshman reception, and that the President recognized the name and sent his greetings back. "Papa" was so delighted Mr. Sproul connected the student with his old friend, or even an acquaintance.

Nathan: It sounds like a great party. And of course that was actually a very good way of the President's cultivating support.

Robb: Yes, it was. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sproul enjoyed sending back messages.

And Mr. Sproul loved his students. He loved the receptions for new students. Somewhere in his early forties, a student came through--let me go back and say that Mr. Sproul was noted for remembering people and names. He would meet students on the campus and remember them and meet them again, and they were really quite impressed.

Robb: Well, this one student came in and he'd heard all about Mr. Sproul's memory and he thought that was "baloney." So, he came early and went through the line on one of the freshman receptions. (This is when there were around 4,000 men and women.)

And so the student came through the line and said a word or two. The line moved fast, but they had time to say something. Finally, they announced the last time to go through the President's line. (This was immediately after the war. I remember it because of the way the thing was set up.)

This student came through and Mr. Sproul said, "Well! You must like this place; you've been here before." The poor student was so embarrassed. Nowadays they have name tags, but they didn't then.

Nathan: A very good story.

Students and University Meetings

Robb: Mr. Sproul also enjoyed the University meetings, which followed the Wheeler tradition, where he could reach hundreds of students and instil loyalty. They were exceedingly well attended, and students came not only to hear him but to hear the speaker of the day. The University meeting was an excellent place for the President to sell the University. He tried hard to seek speakers who were renowned and appropriate to the issue of the moment. His introductions were light, humorous and significant. They were never just biographical statements.

He was careful to arrange the program to flow within the hour. Toward the close of the meeting, students would begin filtering out, some to meet job obligations, but some just followers. He would rise and say in his stentorian voice, "Good Californians do not leave before 'All Hail.'" The exodus invariably halted, which indicated respect for the man and the institution he represented.

Nathan: Weren't the University meetings usually held in the Greek Theater?

Robb: No, generally the only meetings in the Greek Theater were the freshman meetings. The others were held, in the early days, in old Harmon Gymnasium, the present site of Dwinelle Hall; later they were held in what is the current Men's Gymnasium, which is called Harmon Gymnasium, too. Mr. Sproul had special meetings

Robb: for returning Olympians, students who had participated in the Olympic Games, at University meetings at which there was a dignified performance. There he spoke not only of their accomplishments but what it might mean internationally. In other words, he made thoughtful remarks. I think the students had rallies themselves, but President Sproul's meeting was not a rally. It was a ceremony honoring the returning Olympic Games "warriors," so to speak. There were many, because there were winning teams and individuals in such sports as crew and basketball.

Mr. Sproul always had a Senior Meeting with campus leaders speaking briefly. His introduction of six or seven speakers was very pithy.

Explaining the Athletic Policy

Robb: He believed in students playing as athletes, not athletes playing as students.

A typical example of this style was in 1947, when Mr. Sproul introduced the new football coach. Here he took occasion to express, as he did at every opportunity, his athletic policy. Perhaps you'll be interested in the introductions for that particular meeting. He was introducing "Pappy" Waldorf.

He is a man who shares my belief that football is a game to be played by boys for fun and not a sacrificial test of manly character and institutional quality. Also, that it is a game to be played in strict accordance with the spirit of the rules to which an institution has subscribed, and not in dishonest evasion of those rules in order to "win at any cost." Mr. Waldorf is a warm, generous human being with high ideals of sportsmanship, whom I am delighted to welcome to this campus. He is also the first football coach I have known who, at the beginning of his career, acknowledged proudly that he is truly what most football coaches come to be called sooner or later--namely, an S.O.B. [And after a typical pause] He's the son of a bishop. I present to you Mr. Lynn "Pappy" Waldorf, all two hundred and sixty pounds of him.

Robb: Our second guest was invited partly on his own great merit and partly because of his knowledge of Thomas Jefferson, whose birthday-anniversary is next Sunday. Dean Hicks represents a greater varsity than Coach Waldorf ever will: the California varsity of distinguished scholars, and especially distinguished historians, and he is the star of that varsity whom I legally proselyted from the University of Wisconsin. I'm as proud of that job as any alumnus, including myself, could possibly be over persuading a triple-threat halfback to come to California, for it cannot be repeated too often that the reputation of universities are not made in the sporting sections of the daily newspapers. You and I could still hold up our heads in pride even if--God forbid--our university never won an athletic victory, provided it continues to attract scholars of the quality of our next speaker. He is one of a team of less than eleven men--but enough--men like Bolton, Paxon, Sontag and Kerner, who made our History Department great.

And there is boasting about national championships. It would be well for us to remember that the University of California has had its athletic championships; it will have more of them. Can the football institutions of the nation, the names of which come easily to mind for all of us, make a similar claim to academic pre-eminence, past, present and future?

Nathan: Thinking a moment about the pressures on athletes and on institutions to get the best athletes, did he have a position on possibly fudging on grades in order to permit an athlete to come to U.C.?

Robb: Oh, no, but you never know how lenient a faculty man might be. President Sproul was constantly after his deans to hold to their standards.

Early, as football became more popular and less of just a campus activity, the problems became pretty acute, particularly with USC, where they relied regularly on their athletics for funds.

He endeavored, with the aid of President Wilbur at Stanford and others, to have a policy set. He called together alumni from Stanford and California, and many of Mr. Sproul's good friends were still sophomoric. They didn't quite agree with Mr. Sproul's purist policy; they thought we should turn out winning teams.

Robb: More than one of them would say, "I don't agree with you, Bob, but I'll go along with you." Among them might be such staunch University supporters as the late Jean Witter.

He labored long and hard to maintain his policy of amateur athletics and deplored the trend toward professionalism. Under President Wheeler's policy, which Mr. Sproul followed, California turned out distinguished alumni, such as Brick Muller, Judge Stanley Barnes, Dr. Brody Stevens, Dr. Bob Albo, Dan McMillan, Walt Gordon, "Smoke" Francis, Judge Christian Markey, Jr., Peter Schabarum, Judge James Duvaris, Doctor John Najarian, and many, many more, who have brought credit to the University, in their chosen fields.

President Sterling and President Sproul were interested in maintaining the old intercollegiate competition rather than providing training grounds for professional basketball and football players. Both presidents deplored the trend toward professionalism and worked diligently to prevent it. Mr. Sproul was opposed to intersectional games unless they were not during the regular college term. Times have changed because the travelling time is no longer a factor.

He also believed that the University should compete only with comparable academic institutions and should not be involved in a commercial affair.

An interesting example was way back in the middle thirties. There was pressure for a game with Notre Dame which the President opposed, at Berkeley (the University couldn't go back to Notre Dame). Later, before Mr. Kerr became President, just at the end of his chancellorship, he had halfway committed himself to a game with Notre Dame. Mr. Sproul opposed it and said that they could not play Notre Dame, that it had been a policy he had had for 20 years, and that as long as he was President he didn't want that policy broken.

Mr. Kerr had evidently found himself committed. I've forgotten how the decision came about, but Mr. Sproul did as he always did, he supported his subordinates. They were supposed to follow the rules. If they went over the line and did it in good faith, it was up to him to support his staff.

So Mr. Sproul said, "All right." But for 20 years, he had opposed a Notre Dame game and was sorry to see it come about. Notre Dame did come out and play California, and their public

Robb: relations man, being interviewed over the air, said he was so glad to be here, because for 20 years he had been trying to have a game with California. He'd finally succeeded in having this game.

Mr. Sproul was firm in his opinion that Notre Dame was not the type of institution we should be playing.

Nathan: Did he feel that Notre Dame was not on an educational level with California--that the grade standards were different?

Robb: That's right; the contesting teams should be academically on a par. All through the years he was fighting for students playing at athletics and not athletes playing as students.

Mr. Sproul was an athlete, a Big C man; he was a track man and a great sports supporter. He knew all the members of the teams; he was an official at the track meets, even after he retired. Then his eyesight began to fail and he had to withdraw. They made him an honorary official, until his health failed too. Mr. Sproul seldom missed going to the locker room after a defeat to console the boys and stress the fact that it's how you play the game that matters. He knew the boys and cheered them on for the next game.

Mr. Sproul had qualities that stood him in great stead for his positions. His physique was good. He was a nice looking man and carried himself well. He had a good voice. He was a talented speaker, so that his public appearances were all very much in his favor; I can't say he capitalized on them, but they stood him in good stead.

Glee Club, Cal Band, Straw Hat Band

Robb: Mr. Sproul's interest went far beyond the athletic arena. Early in his administration, he felt the Glee Club should be developed and was willing to aid them financially. The results are evident.

Of course, the band received his wholehearted, if not financial, support. He was a drum major in his student days and was given a silver-headed baton on his retirement. He led the Alumni Band in the stadium when they celebrated their fiftieth anniversary.

Robb: You may be interested in an account of a more recent tribute by the band:

Here is the text of the announcement given in memory of Robert Gordon Sproul on October 4, 1975:

Ladies and Gentlemen, on September 10, the University of California Band lost its most famous drum major, and the University lost its greatest President, Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul. Friends of the University remember his brilliant 28 year tenure as President for the fellowship he generated in the University community, for his great leadership, and for his resonant, booming voice. His achievements live on in this, the finest academic institution in the world. It was said of President Sproul that "doubtless God could have made a better President of the University of California, and doubtless he never did." Ladies and Gentleman, please join in a moment of silence in memory of President of the University, Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul.

The moment of silence was broken by the introduction to Hail to California played by senior first trumpeter, Fritz Loura, followed by all of the members of the Cal Band singing Hail to California.

This ceremony took place in the Pre-Game performance by the University of California Band at the California-San Jose State football game on October 4, 1975. The tribute to Robert Gordon Sproul was written and delivered by Albert Locher '72, Announcer for the University of California Band.

Basketball fans will remember the Straw Hat Band salute of "Good Evening, Bob and Ida Sproul," when the family, including grandmother, rooted for the Bears. Basketball games were a must for the calendar and entered thereon as soon as the schedule was out. He just loved them and he went often because they were early in the evening and didn't disrupt the every-other-night rule, which he tried religiously to maintain.

The Straw Hat Band served at their fiftieth wedding anniversary too. The children gave them a party for the family only at the Bohemian Club, and the Straw Hat Band came in.

Nathan: They were always my favorite group too.

Robb: Mine too.

A Glance at Little Theatre

Nathan: Was it your recollection that the Sprouls would go to the theater or musical events, or were there any on campus for them to go to?

Robb: Yes. There was the Little Theatre; Mr. Sproul helped develop that. This is a topic which isn't part of my contribution, but the Little Theatre was developed in the early days pretty much on the Berkeley campus. Then I think it probably took more form another place. I'm not quite sure. Sam Hume was involved, at Berkeley, and I think Mr. Sproul would have been interested in having Sam Hume a member of the faculty, but it wasn't possible.

We had famous actors, or contributors to the dramatic field, let's say. There was Irving Pitschell, who was a product of the Little Theatre, and Everett Glass, and Ralph Edwards, Gregory Peck--all of these are products of the Little Theatre when they used Wheeler Hall, with nothing but a small platform. Somebody really ought to talk on the development of the Little Theatre because I go to the theater now, and you can see somebody press a button and the stage goes this way, and something comes down and there it is. If you remember going to Wheeler Hall, when they'd put the lights out; then boom, boom, boom, you'd hear them hammering, and they'd walk in the dark and pull in a chair and bring something in. They had no real stage set.

That's when you really do things, when they're not so easy. Of course, commercially I guess you couldn't do that. But they had lots of profitable plays in Wheeler Hall, with nothing but a platform, and a small platform at that. It was almost a rostrum, little more. They would work in the dark, and you would sit there and hear them moving around--you remember, don't you?

Nathan: Very well indeed.

VII WORK HABITS AND RUNNING THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Robb: You asked about Mr. Sproul's working habits.

As Bill Donald, his physician, told me, he had never seen a man so well coordinated as President Sproul. This, of course, explains why he was able to work so long and so hard, but that also meant he had to have things come to him "well coordinated," which meant he had to have an efficient staff, and have his work programmed for him.

The Calendar

Robb: A good calendar was essential. There were certain fixed dates around which other business and social affairs revolved. Regents' meetings, International House board meetings, commencements, Rockefeller and Carnegie trustees' meetings, and the Faculty Club (Berkeley), Christmas dinners were musts. Once these dates were entered on the calendar for the year, other engagements were scheduled, such as speeches, Charter Day, involving a trip to Los Angeles with the speaker, and annual alumni tours, to say nothing of the heavy social events, both with the Sprouls as hosts and as guests. This required a careful apportionment of his time.

Generally the mornings were reserved for study and preparation of reports or speeches and dictation. There was a rigid rule called the EON rule (every other night), which meant no two night engagements in a row. This, I may say was strictly adhered to. It took almost an act of Congress to break it. But it was necessary to protect the strength of both Mrs. Sproul and the President.

Robb: Both felt if they accepted a social engagement, they should be in condition to contribute to the success of the affair. They were usually the "stars" and both were conscious of their responsibilities. They arrived on time and stayed the appropriate time. They made it a rule never to sandwich two affairs at a time.

Staff and Research

Robb: The fact the President was able to maintain this heavy schedule and perform as well as he did was due in part to a loyal and hard-working staff. While he was a hard worker, he never asked the staff to work harder than he did. He was not a man to make snap judgments. He had to have time allotted to go over his mail and prepare for conferences. He was a meticulous worker who required a complete file on any letter that needed a reply. This meant, of course, that he had to have an adequate filing department.

All correspondence was indexed and filed numerically, according to subject matter. Files covering important problems, extending over a period of years, were bound together and called "special problems," otherwise known as "SPs."

The papers in the filing department were an open book. Some might bear a sticker which read

IMPORTANT

**THIS MATERIAL MUST NOT BE
REMOVED FROM FILES WITHOUT
SPECIAL APPROVAL OF**

President

(Above is a picture of an actual sticker used
in the President's office.)

Robb: Mr. Sproul's personal papers were given a special block of numbers, and were easily segregated from the presidential files when he retired.

Way back in the twenties he devised the alphabet system, even before President Roosevelt. All through the files you'll find P.G.F. (please get file), P.G. (please get), E.O.N. (every other night), P.O.C. (put on calendar), and P.S.T.M. (please speak to me).

The members of the President's office were loyal, and while they grumbled at a 4:45 request for a letter by 5:00, they did get it done. The President was appreciative. The staff had great respect for the Boss and were very careful to be sure they were right before submitting a report. And besides, with Mr. Sproul's memory and eagle eye he could spot an omission or an error of fact. He never accepted a report without careful reading and consideration--perhaps consultation with an interested party or faculty member. He permitted no form letter, report, or directive to go out over his name without his written approval.

Preparing Speeches and Reports

Robb: Mr. Sproul wrote his speeches, generally in longhand. They would be typed and then edited and re-edited. Any figures, comparisons, quotes had to be checked before the speech was finalized. He went to the attic at the President's House to rehearse it. He never read a speech (except the Charter Exercises in the Greek Theater), but he always had a copy with him, just in case! But he would not permit a release until after the speech was delivered. It unnerved him to see the Press in the front row checking to be sure he made no changes or omissions. Since he was usually the main speaker, and therefore the last to appear, many is the time he revised and shortened his remarks because by that time the audience was tired or perhaps bored.

As I have said, Mr. Sproul worked over his speeches. Perhaps you would be interested in the preparation of his honorary degree characterizations.

Nathan: Yes, I would be.

Robb: Immediately upon the approval of the honoree, Mr. Sproul asked the Library to send him all the information they had on the candidate. He then drew up a characterization that was revised perhaps three or four times. He might ask Dr. Deutsch and/or Professor Leon J. Richardson, both classicists, for their comments. Sometimes he accepted them; sometimes they gave him new ideas. Sometimes in the case of a professional man or industrialist he would ask a faculty man if he had covered the right spots.

As I have said, he was an avid reader. He had a system of saving copies of speeches, articles, books, news items, etc., on which he would indicate a heading and send it out to be filed under Speech Material in the attic of the President's House. When he accepted a speaking engagement he would ask for the folder on what he intended to discuss. Needless to say these involved considerable space. In the case of books careful reference was made of the title, author, subject, etc.

Mr. Sproul was a meticulous worker, and as a result came to his conclusions deliberately. While his emotions ran deep, his decisions were never made on an emotional basis.

It was very upsetting to him to have a program which had been set up, upset. The going in the office was pretty tense! But he was a reasonable boss--he might "blow his top" on minor errors, but on the big ones he would sit down with the offender and try to work out a solution. Publicly he always assumed the responsibility.

Nathan: As we have been talking about the way President Sproul worked over his speeches and his presentations, I wondered if in his long career he wrote other things in addition to those directly associated with the functioning of the University.

Robb: No. He made statements, of course, for publication and for special events, but no, he did not write. I don't think that he ever thought really of writing as a profession. He inherited the gift from his maternal grandmother. But he enjoyed the speaking, and he often said: "It doesn't read as well." His delivery was good and so was his presence.

He intended at some time to write of his experiences. If his health had been a little better after retirement, he might have written, but it would have been on the University or some phase of University administration.

Nathan: You have shown me some early handwritten drafts of letters, but I wondered whether Mr. Sproul also dictated letters, and whether he liked to do so.

Robb: Mr. Sproul was an excellent dictater of letters. He was careful in his diction. He punctuated the letters and, in many cases, spelled unusual words or foreign or Latin expressions. He sat with great dignity--and belloved.

Nathan: He addressed the microphone like a meeting?

Robb: He did; he really did. At various times, he and Mrs. Sproul gave a room in the house to a student who had been recommended by the Dean's office, here and at Los Angeles. This particular student, who later became a priest, used to call Mr. Sproul "Period-Paragraph," because his room was directly below Mr. Sproul's office at home, and he could hear the dictation with this "Period-Paragraph" coming out.

Nathan: I gather this would be primarily for correspondence. How about speeches?

Robb: He wrote his speeches in long hand. Then he would revamp them in long hand and use the back of a typewritten speech for economy.

Nathan: I see. I was thinking, also, of the writing of certain reports. The one that comes to mind is the biennial report to the Legislature. I gather there would be someone on the staff or someone hired to take care of this?

Robb: That's right; that was a staff project. But he edited it very carefully.

Nathan: Everything would have gone across his desk, then. And I remember seeing some published. Was that continued after the war?

Robb: No, it was discontinued. The report was submitted more as a secretarial presentation as against a more historical document. In the early days, the President's reports were quite detailed. Then they became too involved, and were consolidated into a more narrative style of report. Then that was changed after the war, and the current type of report I think has gone through many changes since the early days' reports.

Nathan: In addition to that rather formal, complete report to the Legislature, was it his custom to send special reports to

Nathan: individuals in the Legislature or in the state administration? Did he have other lines out to other people?

Robb: No. If the question came up, or a person was particularly interested or particularly opposed to something, he might write a letter.

Mixing in Groups

Nathan: Did President Sproul's views as an idealistic and religious man make it difficult for him to take part in the convivial atmosphere of some of the governmental groups or other clubs that were fairly worldly?

Robb: No. I would say that through college he was pretty close to an abstainer, but not entirely. He became a very active member of the northern and the southern Wine and Food Society. He was a gourmet and, in addition to that, a wine connoisseur.

But in his legislative field in the early days, he told me that he absolutely abstained from alcohol. He wasn't in any sense prudish, because he would laugh as loud and seemingly be as noisy as the others, but without any alcohol. I don't think his abstinence was ever noticed. It certainly had no effect, other than the fact that he was always clear-minded.

If he had to make a speech or appear in public, or if he were going to an important meeting, he did not take a drink.

As I said, Mr. Sproul was able to work as hard as he did as long as he did, because he was so well organized. I will say this: he worked hard, but he enjoyed his work--every minute of it, I think. He was able to cut things off; in other words, he'd say "We stop right here, and that's behind me, and that's in the day's business." I don't think he went to a social affair carrying the weight of the day's business. I don't mean to say the pressures weren't there, but they were behind him for the moment.

Preparing for Regents' Meetings

Nathan: In preparation for a Regents' meeting, did President Sproul assemble materials or call together committees? How did he prepare himself?

Robb: His staff prepared an agenda based on items he had assigned for the meeting. Business would come up that would be required-- finance committee action or grounds and buildings committee action, or an occasional policy--whatever the problems were. Those committee meetings would have been held prior to the formal board meeting which took place at two o'clock in the afternoon. Sometimes committee meetings were scheduled for the day before.

As time went on, the load became heavier, necessitating more committee meetings extending over perhaps two days. But someone else should talk about the proceedings of the Regents.

The President's staff prepared material which he reviewed and sent back for questions before it came out in final form. Mr. Sproul was a great reviser because he was a perfectionist, and written reports were edited sometimes two or three times.

Mr. Sproul devised a system of having a faculty man present an interesting subject to the Regents. Maybe some discovery was being made or maybe they were considering a financial project. He would then have the director come in and explain it. Maybe just to present an interesting topic, a faculty man would come in and explain or discuss a project.

Communicating with the Regents

Nathan: This concept of the way the President would present problems to the Regents--you were saying that his system was to make a recommendation, and then what would the Regents do?

Robb: I think from the very beginning of his administration, Mr. Sproul was one to investigate and study a project, whether it was for a Regents' meeting or some other purpose. He always sought advice from various persons on both sides of the situation and then made

Robb: his decision in the light of his understanding of what the recommendation should be. I think he was essentially a leader, and he guarded that quality and developed it so far as he could all through his administration. He was the one responsible.

In the case of the Regents, he would ask for acceptance of his recommendation, and this would set the policy to be adopted by the Regents. He believed strongly in that system and opposed at every possible chance the Regents as individuals invading the administrative areas. That doesn't necessarily mean that he didn't listen to the Regents or take into account their points of view, but the channel of communication and the position of the President were such that he felt that he should at all times be the proper channel between Regents and administration and faculty. Mr. Sproul was very careful not to exceed his authority. He knew just how far the Regents would support him. And he was friendly with Regents; he consulted with them many times.

On the other hand, he was careful not to build up a channel of communication with the Regents and himself without some basis, and he was opposed to the Regents dealing with the faculty. One of his main struggles for years and years was in the south, where the southern Regents were a problem. They would come in and make commitments on promotions, etc. It was difficult, but Mr. Sproul handled it skillfully.

Nathan: Do you mean that faculty members would go directly to a Regent?

Robb: No. A Regent would go directly to the faculty--the other way round. I suppose that was one of Mr. Sproul's main qualifications: he was a good peacemaker and a good negotiator. He was honest; people believed him. They believed him in the Legislature too; he made friends that way.

Nathan: In the early days of Mr. Sproul's presidency, were you aware of much contact with the Regents?

Robb: Of course, I was "green" and as I look back, I've missed many opportunities in various areas. Yes, his contacts with the Regents were very good. Many of them were very good friends and still are, even Mr. Neylan. They were very close friends up to a breaking point. Up to the time of the Loyalty Oath, they supported each other.

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Robb: The Regents were by and large strong supporters of President Sproul. There were divisions within the Board of Regents, but they would come to a conclusion, and then some would be on this side and some on that side. But Mr. Sproul was a leader within the Board. In other words, he was not buffeted by the Regents. The last few years were rough, but he still was in command. He didn't win all the battles; that wouldn't have been good.

VIII THE POLITICAL ARENA

Techniques of Negotiation

Nathan: I might ask about relationships around the state because Mr. Sproul's connections were really unique. Did he have any special relationship with newspaper publishers?

Robb: Yes--very good relations.

Nathan: Did he cultivate them?

Robb: Yes he did. His cultivation was never obvious. He was very sensitive to unfavorable reports and very often worked not through the editor, but through someone who could get to the editor. This was one of his techniques.

Nathan: How did he get along with California's Governors?

Robb: We've seen cases where the Chancellor or Presidents have taken on the Governor. Mr. Sproul took the position that the University needs funds or projects, and he presented his case to the public. He had loyal alumni and friends working for him because they were the "boys" who could get to the Governor. Of course he met and "took on the Governor" but across the desk, face to face. Not publicly. Mr. Sproul's point was that he was in a better position to negotiate in that way, perhaps even to yield a bit.

Mr. Sproul would pick up the telephone and call someone who was influential in Sacramento and say "Bill, we're having troubles. Can you do anything to help us? This is the University point of view." Bill might say "I don't agree with you," and then Mr. Sproul would move on to someone else. Everybody did not agree with him.

Robb: He might call some friend and say "I just talked to Bill and his position is thus and so. See if you can change his point of view." Mr. Sproul had a regular network of friends throughout the state, on whom he could and did call.

Nathan: A very effective way of marshalling forces.

Robb: Very effective. And of course in that way you get active support because people like to be called upon; they like to feel they are important. Mr. Sproul did hold a place in the state and even the nation.

Invitations to be a Candidate

Robb: Back as early as 1936 and 1937, there was quite a move for Mr. Sproul to run for the United States Senate. Most of the pressure was in southern California with Republican leaders. He has always been a Republican. It was not surprising then that the pressure came from the south. Mr. Sproul as a southern influence could be identified with the south. There were letters to him in which they said he was the only one who could be elected from the south.

Many of his friends were not in favor of his running for the Senate. One was John Francis Neylan, who, as I have said, later became famous as his opponent in the oath controversy. Mr. Sproul's position was that he loved the University and feared his entry into the political scene would bring the University into politics.

Then in 1941 and 1942 an influential group in Los Angeles approached Mr. Sproul to run for Governor. Among the Republicans, both north and south, there was a strong feeling they could not break through the Olson machine. Among them were L.O. Foreman of Foreman and Clark, Edward A. Dickson, Judge Joe Shell, Senator George W. Rochester, Judge Goodwin J. Knight, Senator Ed Fletcher of San Diego, Senator George M. Biggar of Mendocino, State Treasurer Gus G. Johnson; the so-called Breed, Asa Call and Kidder groups.

They thought Mr. Sproul was the one who could carry the south. He had made a place for himself in the early days of his administration when he and Mrs. Sproul spent a part of each year as residents

Robb: of Los Angeles and Mr. Sproul participated in community affairs.

In the discussions, Mr. Sproul made it clear that they would have to clear with the Regents and convince him that his candidacy would not bring the University into state politics. Again and again the national vice-presidency was dangled before him. Mr. Neylan offered his support, and to enlist that of others, if Mr. Sproul wished to enter the field of politics. Neylan said he could be elected Governor in 1942 and President in 1944--provided General Douglas MacArthur did not return to this country.

In 1948, Mr. E.A. Dickson again urged Mr. Sproul into politics, particularly the senatorship. But an old friend and counsellor, Preston Hotchkis appeared on the scene. Hotchkis was of the opinion that Mr. Sproul could go far, but said he could not encourage him.

I don't think Mr. Sproul could have been persuaded to enter a Senate race. He might have been interested in the governorship, but I doubt it. He had many conferences with political leaders and discussions with his trusted friends, who said they would strongly support Mr. Sproul, but they were not sure his place was not with the University. In addition to Preston Hotchkis, they included Charles Stern, Pat O'Hara, and Stanley Barnes. Mr. Sproul withdrew his name, and Earl Warren carried the state.

By 1948 Earl Warren had reached national prominence, and his supporters were putting him up for the presidency. Governor Warren wanted his old friend and supporter to nominate him. Some of the Regents, particularly John Francis Neylan objected to Mr. Sproul doing this, feeling it would bring the University into politics. Mr. Sproul disagreed on the grounds there was no issue involved at this time and it was a national affair, not a state affair. He did nominate Earl Warren, and judging from the responses from friends and the press, the speech was well received.

In 1958 on President Sproul's retirement there was a "boomlet" but it didn't get any where.

In 1960, he participated in the Republican presidential campaign. He was National Co-Chairman of Scholars for Nixon and Lodge, and was a member of the National Committee of Volunteers for Nixon and Lodge.

Robb: In this same year he became one of the three honorary members of the Lincoln Club. The Lincoln Club was organized in 1921 "to commemorate the life of Abraham Lincoln and to perpetuate the ideals and principles which he exemplified." It is not a political club. Its membership consists of distinguished leaders in Southern California, who I believe are Republicans. Mr. Sproul became a member in 1935, and was later its president. Among the other presidents were Henry M. Robinson, Edward A. Dickson, William May Garland, Edward D. Lyman, Robert A. Millikan, William Mullendore, and Herbert Hoover, Jr. Speakers at the annual dinner have been Herbert Hoover; Jacob Gould Schurman, former Ambassador to Germany; John Hays Hammond, engineer; Maurice Walter Keatings of Oxford University; Professor A. Blythe Webster, Dean of St. Andrews University, Scotland; and William A. White, to name a few.

In 1962 when Mr. Nixon was making his political comeback, there was great pressure to have Mr. Sproul as state chairman in the gubernatorial campaign. The Sprouls were planning a trip which had been postponed until his retirement. He did not want to interfere with that because Mrs. Sproul was very anxious to go to the Orient. Her eyesight was failing and she wanted to go while she could still see, and Mr. Sproul did not feel he had the time and strength to take on a major project.

Again in 1964 Mr. Sproul's name came to the fore. The Goldwater people were seeking his endorsement, but he decided against it, as long as Nelson Rockefeller was in the running. He based his decision on his long association with the Rockefellers and the aid they had given to the University under his presidency. While Mr. Sproul's name was frequently popping up in connection with top Republican posts, it was not because he was an active participant in party affairs, but because he was well known for his community activities and a proven leader.

I hope I have not given the impression much of his time and effort was spent on political matters. Not true. He was sought for political posts, but his decisions were reached after weighing the effect they would have on the University.

Association with Earl Warren

Nathan: Would you care to talk about President Sproul's relationship with Earl Warren over the years?

Robb: Yes. They were very good friends all through the years. They were contemporaries. Earl Warren was of the 1912 class, Mr. Sproul was in the class of 1913. Mr. Sproul worked a year to earn money for college. There was a standing joke when Earl Warren was State Attorney General, and in the early days of his governorship. The two very often appeared on the same program. Since they were exactly the same age Warren made much of the fact that he was smarter than the President of the University because he graduated from college a year earlier!

They had very much the same personalities. Their appearance was similar. Both were good looking, tall, straight, with blue eyes, and blond hair, and had a commanding stage presence. Many of their friends were of the same groups, and both were popular in all circles. Earl Warren had a quality that Mr. Sproul also had of being friendly, recognizing and calling people by name. And their philosophies were similar. I think Mr. Sproul was more liberal than Earl Warren in the early days, until the Supreme Court days.

Earl Warren, as I recall, did not oppose the relocation of the Japanese, whereas Mr. Sproul did not agree with relocation. Mr. Sproul was interested in doing what was proper in protecting the rights of the Japanese-Americans. He worked diligently with a committee composed of Bishop Edward Parsons, President Ray Lyman Wilbur and Robert Millikan. I think Mr. Sproul served as Chairman.

The early friendship of the two men (Warren and Sproul) made it easy for them in the handling of their official duties. Both men made well-considered decisions. Both men worked for the welfare of the University and the state.

Governor Warren was generous in his budget allotments, but I should say that Mr. Sproul never presented a budget he could not defend to the last penny, and Earl Warren knew this. He also understood the University and its potentials. It was through Governor Warren's interest that the Institute of Industrial Relations was established, and the School of Public Health whose

Robb: building bears his name. The real estate program was another. Governor Warren was a steady user of our Bureau of Public Administration as it was known in his day.

In the late thirties and early forties, Mr. Sproul did much to further Earl Warren's political future in Southern California. As I have said, Mr. Sproul was being urged to enter the gubernatorial race. He withdrew and Earl Warren carried Los Angeles County in the November election. It was then the two men agreed Earl Warren would go into politics and Mr. Sproul would stay with the University and at no time would he enter state politics. The two men kept their bargain.

I don't suppose Mr. Sproul conferred an honorary degree with more pleasure, nor wrote a citation with more sincerity than for Earl Warren.

Here it is.

Loyal alumnus of the University, generous in judgment of her material needs, staunch champion of the freedom of the faculty; peerless governor of California, thrice elected by her people; clear of vision, stout of faith, and steadfast of purpose; now Chief Justice of the United States, bringing to the Nation's highest tribunal not alone familiarity with the law, but also strength of character and courage of conviction: a great Californian and a great American.

Some of Earl Warren's friends proposed a legal center in his honor, and Mr. Sproul was made Chairman of the National Citizens Committee to raise the sum, which was \$1 million. At that time, as might have been suspected, there was some objection to honoring Earl Warren by naming the center for him. Mr. Sproul was instrumental in dispelling this opposition, which got nowhere. As I have already stated, Mr. Sproul secured in a single gift a quarter of a million dollars.

IX SOME POSTS ACCEPTED AND DECLINED

Robb: Mr. Sproul had many offers to go outside the University.

At the age of 32 he was asked to be President of the Key System--the East Bay transit system, which also operated the passenger ferries between Oakland and San Francisco. The same year he declined the Prune and Apricot Growers Association general managership.

As President of the University, the other jobs he assumed had to do in large measure with educational, social, or international affairs. In less than ten years he had made a place for himself. President Roosevelt twice appointed him to the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy and in 1947 he declined reappointment. In 1939 he was elected to the coveted boards of the Carnegie and Rockefeller Foundations and served until the retirement age.

Various commissions and appointments followed. He was a member of the United States Veterans Administration from 1944 to 1958, and was chairman of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Advisory Committee from 1953 to 1958.

He declined membership in various projects such as the Council for Financial Aid to Education, Inc., urged upon him by Alfred P. Sloan, Irving Olds and Frank Adams, all great industrialists. Similarly he turned down invitations to be one of the heads of the USO; Director of Selective Service, to name a few. He declined invitations from industrial and financial organizations because he felt there might be a conflict of interest involved.

He was, however, one of the founders of the Berkeley Building and Loan Association in the '20s and continued membership on the board. No University funds were deposited and the loans were not of the type the University handled.

Robb: Many requests came to Mr. Sproul during his career--too many to name, but I might mention offers for posts within the state department, special assignments, appointments to commissions such as the Revision of the California Constitution in the years 1929, 1930, and 1960.

Two offers received considerable publicity. One, the Anglo-California Bank in San Francisco, reputedly offered \$50,000, almost three times Mr. Sproul's University salary, which he declined. The other was the presidency of Columbia University in 1947. The arguments on both sides were compelling. The opportunities offered were challenging and far-reaching. The establishment of the United Nations in New York and the traditional place of Columbia in its close association with the State Department were appealing.

Letters of endorsement from trustees and faculty entered into Mr. Sproul's decision. One trustee wrote: ". . .the whole New York community is crying for the leadership which the president of Columbia is so well placed to give" The Chairman of the Board of Trustees wrote:

I would like you to know that Doctor Butler, at our last meeting when your name was mentioned with the Board of Trustees stated without reservation that he considered you the top of all university presidents in the United States--and gave specific reasons for this statement. This was very gratifying . . . and backed up our judgment with the entire board who are unanimous in wanting you as our President.

There was also the statement that Mrs. Ogden Reid and Thomas I. Parkinson and several members of the faculty, including the dean of the medical school, urged his acceptance. (I thought this might be interesting.) The salary and perquisites, even in the forties were fabulous compared to California salaries now. The Academic Senate passed a resolution, and many, many faculty members wrote and petitioned that he not leave.

In coming to a decision, Mr. Sproul asked the Regents two questions, and I quote from the minutes of the Regents of the University:

One, do The Regents unanimously desire to have him continue as President of the University of California; and two, does this Board still adhere to the policy of

Robb: a statewide university with one board, one president, and a centralized organization such as now exists, for he would not want to stay otherwise.

In answer to the first question, Regent Neylan, speaking on behalf of the Board, stated that The Regents most emphatically did want him to continue as President of the University, and a standing vote of The Regents affirmed this statement.

Regent Dickson then moved that there be adopted a resolution to the effect that the sentiment of The Regents is that the unity of the University shall be considered sacred, and that The Regents all concur in the efforts made by the President to maintain the integrity and oneness of the University's system. Regent Hansen seconded the motion, and it was so adopted. In this connection Regent Ehrman stated that he thought it should be a source of gratification to every Regent to know that the members of the Board can go ahead regardless of what one campus needs over another with a feeling that they are going to do their best for "The" University. Regent Moffitt added that this means, of course, primary consultation and agreement with the President on all questions of policy.

The decision was not easy to make. President Sproul wrote:

I have been convinced that my influence upon American higher education, which is the field of my professional competence, is likely to be more effective where I now am than in another university and that no other university has equal need of me. Therefore, I believe it is my duty to decline the Presidency of Columbia University.

The faculty and students greeted his decision with pleasure and the State Legislature passed a concurrent resolution "expressing their appreciation for the great and distinguished service he has given the University and the State of California."

Desire for fame and money were not a part of Mr. Sproul's make-up. However, he did enjoy the plaudits of the public, which were in fact the stimuli which spurred him on, but always his decision hinged on whether it would be good for the University.

X PERSONAL INTERESTS AND HOME LIFE

Love of the Outdoors

Robb: Mr. Sproul was an outdoors man--he liked to hike and fish. As a boy he walked from the Mission District in San Francisco to Sunday school at the United Presbyterian Church on Van Ness Avenue. Here he got his early track training. The mountains and streams fascinated him. I suppose every part of the Tahoe area was hiked. He was a member of a group of fishermen who were faculty men on the Berkeley and Davis campuses. They met immediately after the Golden Bear annual meeting in May and eventually had a cabin near the American River. As time went on, death took its toll, and only Mr. Sproul and Dean Hutchison I believe are still alive. He was also a skier of some accomplishment; I don't ever remember him returning with a broken arm or leg.

Back in the middle '20s a group of men, familiar persons such as David Barrows, W.C. Bray, J.S. Burk, Joel Hildebrand, W.Y. Kellogg, J.N. LeConte, G.N. Lewis, Duncan McDuffie, Warren Olney, Carl Plehn, W.C. Ratcliffe, C.W. Wells, C.A. Noble, J.K. Moffatt, Harry East Miller, Alonzo Taylor, and a few others, including Mr. Sproul purchased a ski lodge at Norden, Nevada, from Lincoln Hutchinson. It was here that Mr. Sproul washed the dishes and Joel Hildebrand dried them. There were many trips to Norden during the years, but as time went on the meetings were not in the mountains but at sea level. The last meeting I remember was in 1955 at the President's House at which 27 members were invited. Twenty-seven survivors in the club was a goodly number since as I recall the membership was, shall we say, of professorial age. I think Mr. Sproul, Professor Hildebrand, and Harold Bradley are now the only living members.

These activities were for fun and friendships.

Working for Conservation

Robb: Mr. Sproul was a conservationist most of his adult life.

The "Save the Redwoods League" was organized in 1918, largely through the efforts and enthusiasm of Professor John C. Merriam, Madison Grant, and Henry Fairfield Osborn. Stephen T. Mather had contributed \$100 as a "starter." Mr. Sproul was made Treasurer, and served until his resignation 50 years later, at which time he was made Treasurer Emeritus. This is, I believe, the largest and oldest conservation organization in the country.

Mr. Sproul's redwoods interest extended to the University. In 1931 a proposal had been made to Professor Goodspeed, Director of the Botanical Gardens, to establish an Arboretum and Plant Preserve in Strawberry Canyon as a memorial to Stephen T. Mather. The plan was approved and Mr. Sproul set out to solicit funds for the project. Some 2,500 trees were planted but the great Depression halted the development. As late as 1959 Mr. Sproul again became interested and sought unsuccessfully some \$50,000 from a donor. However, the California Alumni Foundation has recently set about to find funds to make this a worthy memorial to Stephen T. Mather. [Ed. note: See p. 4 with reference to the Agnes Roddy Robb Glade in the Mather Redwood Grove.]

In the mid-twenties Mr. Sproul, with some other civic-minded men, pleaded for passage of legislation authorizing the purchase of lands in the Berkeley hills for a park system.

In 1931, he was one of a small group of such men who organized the East Bay Regional Park, and in 1958, on his retirement from the University, became a member of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District, and later its chairman. This activity was one of his retirement joys, for he was able to use his talents in the reorganization of the administrative office and engage a far-sighted, able manager, William Penn Mott.

The expansion of the park district despite the rapid urbanization of the East Bay is another evidence of Mr. Sproul's constructive public service. The district has recently honored him by naming a hill overlooking the campus, for him.

In 1959, he was appointed a member of the National Parks Advisory Service of the United States Department of the Interior and served for the statutory term of six years. There he proved to be an active and helpful member of the board.

Robb: That's enough for conservation, don't you think? It covers a long span of time.

Nathan: It's an impressive record.

Robb: Another evidence of his interests and activity was his membership in the California State Chamber of Commerce, which gave him added opportunities to meet and seek aid from statewide personalities, but particularly to serve for 20 years as Chairman of the National Resources Committee where he had a voice in the protection of the natural resources of the state.

The Reading Habit

Robb: As I have indicated, Mr. Sproul's interests were many. In addition, he was a prodigious reader. Not only did he keep up with professional writing but he was well informed on the classics as well as modern fiction. He particularly liked biographies.

International Affairs

Nathan: Did his interests extend to world affairs?

Robb: Yes. Mr. Sproul was interested in international affairs and was a member of numerous boards and commissions. Recognition was evidenced by the awards and decorations he received from foreign countries. [See Appendix.]

President Campbell asked Mr. Sproul to conduct the business with the Rockefellers in establishing International House on the Berkeley campus. Mr. Sproul was President of the Board of Directors of International House throughout his presidency, and was active in its affairs and the search for members. He regarded International House as an important segment of the University and his schedule always protected the International House business. He regarded those meetings as important as Regents' meetings and his attendance was close to 100 per cent.

Robb: He was a long-time member of the Board of the Institute of International Education, the Newcomen Society in North America, and was a senior advisor in the American Group on the Allied Commission on Reparations, appointed by President Truman, and a member of the Citizens Committee for the Marshall Plan, to name a few.

Attitude Toward Religion

Robb: As I have noted, Mr. Sproul came from a deeply religious family, and this background was evidenced all through his life.

As a student he was President of the University YMCA--(Stiles Hall) and was a member of its board of directors for more than 50 years. As he grew older he went less and less to church, but he believed in the institution, as expressed in excerpts from an article he wrote:

A man's creed determines the architecture of his faith. It supplies him with the instrumentalities, the words, the codes, and the patterns of thought which, like anchors to windward, hold him steady in time of storm.

.

There is here a twofold danger. Without the guidance that a church and a creed provide, many people will never find a personal faith. The churches are our spiritual schools, and few persons have the initiative or the ability to educate themselves.

.

If I may review then, my faith is Christian, but it recognizes a kinship with the faiths of all other peoples, regardless of how my creed and theirs may differ.

My faith requires only one absolute conviction, namely, that there is a significance to man's existence on earth, a goal toward which he must strive, and an inspired

Robb: guidance within each individual which, if shared and acted on in concert, will help all the way. And that part of my creed which sets a code of Christlike behavior toward my fellow men is the core of my faith, however poorly I may express that faith in works.

In 1921, long before he became President of the University, he was a trustee of the Pacific School of Religion and gave of his time and talents toward the training of persons for the ministry. He was active on the board and on his retirement from the University became President of the PSR Board of Trustees and served until 1967, when ill health forced him to resign. At that time he was made President Emeritus. Because of his efforts in behalf of the school, a generous donor established the Robert Gordon Sproul Chair of Religion in Higher Education.

In 1955 in a speech in Los Angeles, Mr. Sproul said:

Throughout my term as President, I have been vitally interested in the centers of religious leadership which have gathered about its campuses. This University being a State university is under constitutional mandate to keep itself free from partisan politics and sectarian religion, but this enforced neutrality has never been interpreted by me as an excuse for the University to wash its hands of all responsibility for religious values, and thus to lead its members away from that divine element in human lives, which has traditionally moved the hearts of men from the sordid toward the sublime.

The State University . . . supported by all . . . must be scrupulously fair to all. But equally it must not fail to stimulate its sons and daughters to be sensitive to the moral and spiritual issues of life. . . . After all, religion is an independent force of great cultural and historical importance.

In 1965 he was a member of the National Committee of the 50-Million Fund of the United Presbyterian Church of America under the chairmanship of Henry Luce and was the honorary chairman of the North Coastal Area's 50-Million Fund Campaign.

Mr. Sproul was a member of boards and committees too numerous to mention, covering state and national fields of interest. He had a strict rule that he would not lend his name to any organization to which he felt he could not contribute something. [See Appendix.]

Relationships with Foundations

Nathan: This must be a rather hard decision to make: how many other responsibilities can one assume, as balanced against the demands of the primary one?

Robb: Of course, membership on the board of the Rockefeller Foundation--you'd make that decision to accept without question. But Mr. Sproul was asked to support so many things, or to be a member of committees or commissions. He always sought advice, sometimes from a University colleague, sometimes from an influential friend as to whether he should accept. Then Mr. Sproul made the decision.

Both the Carnegie and Rockefeller Foundations provided fine connections, so to speak, for him in the East.

Nathan: He recruited through his contacts there?

Robb: Yes. For instance Wendell Stanley, who won the Nobel Prize, was on the Rockefeller staff. Several of the Rockefeller trustees were presidents of institutions. Mr. Sproul went into the Rockefeller Foundation quite early; he was in for a long time during his administration. He really enjoyed that. It was a very effective organization. Of course, they're really geared as a research institute, but they were interested in financing projects--not business in any sense.

Nathan: It would be a very interesting source of general information too about what's going on all over the country.

Robb: As I said, Mr. Sproul got to know the Rockefellers during the International House negotiations. They were in touch all through the years, as a matter of fact. Well, the Sprouls are still on the Rockefeller Christmas list. The Sprouls kept their friends. I had a letter from the Rockefellers, two of them, when Mr. Sproul was sick and wasn't able to attend the last trustees meeting.

Mr. Sproul was a Rockefeller trustee until he had to retire. They have an age limit, and even the Rockefellers retire at the age limit, every one of them--John D. first. There's no question about it. At one time, they had a rule that they would not accept any honorary degrees, not only trustees, but anybody in the Rockefeller organization. But I think maybe that's broken now; I'm not sure.

Robb: Of course, Dean Rusk received one after he left the Foundation. He was president of the Rockefeller trustees toward the end of Mr. Sproul's career.

The same retirement rule is true of the Carnegie. They're very strict on age. Sixty-five is the age that they retire. Mr. Sproul was chairman of the Carnegie Foundation for a term. I don't think he was ever chairman of the Rockefeller, but he was on committees. He made a great many friends and some of his eastern and international relations were from the connections he made through those two foundations. Mr. Sproul was on so many eastern committees and commissions.

Some Family Events

Robb: Mr. Sproul had two loves: his family and the University.

Mr. Sproul, remembering his childhood hours when his father read to him and his brother regularly, started a tradition when his children were small--long before he became President--and followed it religiously except when affairs of state took him away from Berkeley. He would gather the family immediately after dinner and read some classic or nonfiction work for a half hour or more and then send the children off to study. Since he was an excellent reader it was a very enjoyable occasion. As they came of college age the weekends were for dates.

Mr. Sproul loved games on and off the field, and invented many, dividing the family into teams. This procedure was carried on with his grandchildren.

Another tradition was the Sunday night suppers. The President selected the menu and prepared the main dish. (He regarded himself as a gourmet.) Each girl was assigned something to bring; the boys waited on table. Grandmother Sproul was the only guest. After dinner they shook dice as to who should do which chore, the highest number the least desirable job, and so on. These were great occasions and not to be interfered with. One year I remember, when Governor-General Alexander of Canada was the Charter speaker. He arrived earlier than expected. Rather than cancel the supper, he was included in the party. A fine time was had by all--especially the Viscount.

Robb: Christmas was a big event. Dr. Sproul always prepared a program. A sample of his humor and feeling is shown in a "Christmas Will."

A Christmas Will

I, Robert Gordon Sproul, being of sound mind and disposing memory, do hereby make and publish this my last will and testament, in order as justly as may be to distribute my interest in the world among succeeding men.

My right to live, being but a life estate, is not at my disposal, but these things excepted all else in the world I now proceed to devise and bequeath:

Item: I give to young fathers and mothers, in trust for their children, all good little words of praise and encouragement, and all quaint pet names and endearments, and I charge said parents to use them justly and generously, as the needs of their children may require.

Item: I leave to the children themselves, but only for the term of their childhood, all and every, the flowers of the fields and the blossoms of the orchards, with the right to play among them freely, according to the custom of children, warning them at the same time against the thistles and the thorns. And I leave the children the long, long days to be merry in, in a thousand ways, and the night and the moon, and the Milky Way to wonder at, but subject nevertheless to the rights therein reserved to lovers.

Item: I devise to the boys jointly all idle fields where ball may be played; all pleasant waters where they may swim; all snowclad hills where they may ski; and all streams and lakes where they may fish; to have and to hold the same for the period of their boyhood, and so long thereafter as their interest in these things may endure.

Item: I give and bequeath to the one girl among us beauty and gentleness; and also in due season the abiding love of a brave and generous husband, and the divine trust of motherhood.

Robb: Item: And to those who are no longer young parents or young children, I leave memory; and I bequeath to them the poems of Burns and Shakespeare and of other poets, if there be others, to the end that they may live over old days again, freely and fully, without tithe or diminution.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand this Christmas Day in the year 1951.

Christmas was not only for the family, but for the staff as well. Back in 1920 when we all returned from lunch, a bunch of violets was on the desk of each member of the cashier's and comptroller's office. This policy of gift-giving was followed all through the years of Mr. Sproul's presidency, and in the case of his top associates, continued after his retirement. Not only were the gifts thoughtful, but the cards accompanying them were treasured for the sentiment and humor. I wish I could remember some of them.

In the last several years the President and Mrs. Sproul had a Christmas party at the President's House. By this time the staff had reached a sizeable number so the list was confined to the immediate personnel located in Sproul Hall. The included staff served from the office telephone exchange of Mr. Corley's, Mr. Pettitt's, Mr. McCaffrey's offices and the President's clerical staff. Mr. Sproul took great glee in preparing some fancy "glug" as a rare treat. (It was a most informal affair--someone would volunteer to play the piano--and all kinds of carols and Christmas songs were lustily sung, the chief baritone being the President, with Mrs. Sproul the gracious hostess.) Some 60 or 70 guests enjoyed the party and the President could identify almost each one.

The President's House as Home

Robb: The President's House was a home for 28 years. The children grew up and all three were married while it was still their home.

Both the President and Mrs. Sproul felt the house should be maintained as a private home rather than an official building, but on the other hand it was also to be used for the benefit of the University and the state. The Sprouls were generous in their entertainment. Except for special occasions, such as the Charter Day, Big Game luncheon--when Stanford played at Berkeley--the

Robb: Senior Tea, etc., the dinners and luncheons were small elegant affairs, with the guest list very carefully chosen in reference to the honoree. Incidentally, in the case of a foreign person, a typical American menu was selected rather than trying to copy the native food.

The house guests were many and distinguished. The Charter speaker and his wife were always invited. Most accepted the invitation.

President Truman declined, saying, 'Mrs. Sproul, I wouldn't think of inflicting us on you and your family. There would be a secret service man under every bush. Your kitchen would be invaded, and every morsel tasted. Thank you very much, but we'll stay at a hotel.'

Some of them are very interesting. I think their prize guest, maybe, was General George Marshall.

Nathan: Was he chief of staff at the time?

Robb: No, he was Secretary of State then, in 1948, when he was a Charter Day speaker. He was a charming guest and considerate. He didn't want to bother about breakfast. "Just put my breakfast outside the door," is I think what he said.

I think Mr. Sproul quotes George Marshall as saying, "I go to sleep at night and everything is forgotten; I get a night's rest so that I can get up the next morning fresh." In other words, he didn't carry things along. Everybody can't do that.

I think it was Adenauer who came and was a house guest. Anyway, he had a cold or stomach ache or something like that and he wanted a hot water bottle. They didn't have a hot water bottle in the house, and they had to send out and buy one.

There was a similar Charter event on the Los Angeles campus and the President and Mrs. Sproul frequently drove the speaker to Los Angeles if the weather was pleasant. The same hospitality was extended in Los Angeles--sometimes not quite so conveniently.

President's Dinner Parties

Robb: As Mrs. Sproul said to me, "At our parties, the men all went this way and the ladies went that way, and finally they got together. They always had some socializing." But they didn't drink very long; dinner was served on time. She was great. Promptness was very important; dinner was at such a time, and that's when they had dinner!

I remember reading that the Duchess of Windsor's parties were so successful; they had two drinks. She didn't want a nice dinner spoiled with alcohol; Mrs. Sproul felt the same way. The Sprouls' guests were carefully chosen to fit the guest of honor.

Nathan: Did they try to have variety in the guest list?

Robb: Yes, they had many dinner parties, and the invitations were sought after. They always had a Charter Day luncheon. That was a big affair in which the guests left shortly after eating, because the exercises were in the afternoon.

The family were not part of the official social life. Mrs. Sproul was very careful; her parties were selective and they were relatively small. They weren't enlarged by members of the family or the office staff. She felt very definitely that they didn't belong, and I agree with her. That's different from most of the campuses where secretaries of the office are much more a part of the social life. I agreed the Sprouls were right; they should not fill places with the staff.

Mrs. Sproul was a charming hostess; she did most of the preparations herself. She did her own marketing. Like the Rockefellers, the children had to work at times. For Charter Days, I know she said she used to get peas by the hundred pounds, and then she'd pay the children 15¢ a pound to shell them.

And as I say, there was a very close family relationship. At one time, young Bob was a paperboy. He had a paper route and got sick and Mr. Sproul got up and delivered the papers for him. I don't think people would have expected him to do that, but he did.

Nathan: In what way would you say that Mrs. Sproul complemented or helped her husband's career?

Robb: Anything that Mr. Sproul wanted--it made no difference; if he wanted to have a party at two p.m., he had one then, no matter what. On the other hand, he was very considerate of the machinery that went into having a party. Both of them were very careful in the selection of guests; it would be a congenial group, matching interests rather than just titles or departments.

Nathan: You really have to know your guests pretty well in order to do this, don't you?

Robb: Yes, and they did see that they knew their guests--that is, official guests; they checked on what their interests were and any people they might happen to know in the area.

Nathan: These were mostly sit-down dinners or luncheons?

Robb: Yes, sit-down dinners. Except for Charter Day, I don't think they ever had a dinner that wasn't at a single table. Charter Day, Charter Luncheon, was a large affair; it was a sit-down affair and a formal luncheon, but it was large. They brought in tables and the whole downstairs was pretty crowded because you'd have 60 or so for lunch. I don't think they ever had buffets; Mrs. Sproul believed in elegant service with little drinking before.

Nathan: When the invitations were sent out, was that all done from the house or did it come from the office?

Robb: It was all done by the house and it was almost all done by Mrs. Sproul.

They did have a garden, a beautiful garden, and lots of flowers. As a matter of fact, on July 1, 1930, Room 219 in California Hall was filled with flowers. Baskets were eventually distributed among the various lady employees of the University. There was just a bank of flowers.

One was a fern, and I think it came from the Gianninis. It was in the bay window at the President's House in what they called the library. It stayed until they left, all 28 years. The gardener kept it; it was just a traditional fern, but it was huge and beautiful. [Holds out hands]

Nathan: The gesture would make it about three or four feet wide.

Robb: It was pretty close to that, yes.

Nathan: Was that when he was inaugurated as President of the University?

Robb: No, when he took office on July 1st. He was inaugurated in October. It was exciting. The flowers kept pouring in, in these lovely baskets; I had three or four baskets in my basement for years.

Nathan: When you spoke earlier of elegance in the arrangements and the service, was it your impression that the dress was rather formal also?

Robb: Yes, and there were formal invitations. When Prytanean would have use of the house, Mrs. Sproul was always the hostess. The house wasn't loaned for an organization; she was the hostess and invited the membership. That's the way it was set up, because the theory was that this was their home and you would treat it as a home, not an official place.

She provided the food. Conditions have changed, both here and at Los Angeles, and I presume on the other campuses, where the house is just loaned and you bring your own food, or at least you pay for it. But that was not their policy. It's an old-fashioned theory.

Nathan: It has a certain charm about it.

Robb: And dignity. I think they thought that dignity must be maintained so that you would have respect. Mr. Sproul was very friendly but not fraternal in any way.

Mrs. Sproul: An Appreciation

Robb: Now I must pay tribute to Mrs. Sproul, who for 59 years as wife and mother, in spite of official duties, maintained a lovely home and raised three beautiful children. She, like her husband, was a part of the student and alumni life. I know of no better way of expressing her place in the history of the University of California than to quote the characterization of the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts, which was bestowed upon her by The Regents in 1956.

Robb: Presidential partner and first lady of the University for the last quarter century; gracious keeper of Alma Mater's expanding hearth and thoughtful guardian of her heart; peripatetic mother, homemaker, and breakfast table counselor, who binds together the world's greatest collegiate family with smiling remembrance and never-failing friendship.

Letter from a Professor

Robb: A fitting tribute to Mr. Sproul's presidency was expressed in 1959 by a long-time professor.

Dear Bob Sproul,

The interval since your formal retirement has been for me a time of appraisal and reappraisal of the period since 1930, and your achievement at the University has been constantly in my mind.

That achievement, I now conclude, was unique. You created the many-campus university, prototype for the time to come, at the highest level of distinction. And nobody but you could have done it. For it requires unequalled imagination and resourcefulness, an immense talent devotedly brought to bear, a sense of institutions, of men, of intellectual disciplines, of innumerable kinds of excellence--and far from least a willingness to make some sacrifices for excellence. However we may have differed at any moment, I yield to no one in my recognition of this achievement. As I remarked to you when last I dined at the President's House, it is a work that will not be undone, though it appears it will require two score executives to carry it on. I must add, in humble correction, that I now see that what sometimes seemed to me unnecessary deferring of decision and action must really have been superior timing: the result suggests this.

What better monument could a man leave?

Nathan: That's a fine conclusion. All your recollections of the campus years and your focus on "Sproul, the man" have been really fascinating, full of information and insight. And of course now, in 1975, you are the only person who knows so much about it and can remember so precisely the flavor of the Sproul years. Thank you.

Transcriber: Lee Stainback
Final Typist: Keiko Sugimoto

APPENDIX A

Re: Robert Gordon Sproul

Degrees, Awards, Decorations

Organizational Membership List

Commencement Address 1958
University of California

Address to the Graduating Class
of 1963 - University of California

Letter from E. W. Strong

"Our Fair Bob" - Musical Salute

DEGREES
Robert Gordon Sproul

B.S. University of California	1913
LL.D. Occidental College	1926
Univ. of So. California	1930
Univ. of San Francisco	1930
Pomona College	1931
Univ. of Oregon	1932
Univ. of Nebraska	1935
Yale University	1935
Litt.D. Columbia University	1938
LL.D. University of Maine	1938
Univ. of New Mexico	1940
Harvard University	1940
Hon. Fellow, Stanford Univ.	1941
LL.D. Mills College	1943
Princeton University	1947
Tulane University	1949
St. Mary's College	1949
Univ. of California	1958
Univ. of Br. Columbia	1958
Rensselaer Poly. Tech.	1958
L.H.D. Univ. of Calif., L.A.	1958
LL.D. Brigham Young Univ.	1959

AWARDS

Benjamin Ide Wheeler Award	1934
Alumnus of the Year	1946
Centennial Citation #1	1968
Berkeley Fellow (Permanent No. 1)	1968
Alumni Association Centennial Medal	1972

DECORATIONS

Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur	1932
Order of the Crown of Roumania	1935
Knight of the Order of the Iron Crown of Italy	1938
Officier de l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur	1938
Royal Order of the North Star	1950
Commander of the Order of St. Olav	1952

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

of

Robert G. Sproul

Director, California Association for Adult Education
 Social Science Research Conference
 Alpha Zeta (1935)
 Advisory Council, National Congress of Parents and Teachers
 American Foundation of Tropical Medicine (President 1941-44; reelected
 Board Director 1945-47)
 Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science
 American Newcomen Society (1939) American member of Council at London
 Phi Beta Kappa
 Tau Beta Pi
 California Forest Research Advisory Council
 Pacific Geographic Society
 Trustee, Rockefeller Foundation, 1939-1956
 Trustee, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 1939-1958
 Trustee, General Education Board, 1939-56
 Trustee, Pacific School of Religion, Chairman, 1959
 California State Board of Social Welfare, 1928-1931
 Commission on Revision of California State Constitution, 1929-1930
 California Conference of Social Work (Director) 1930-32
 Y.M.C.A. (Director) Berkeley
 International House, Berkeley (President)
 Western College Association (President, 1942)
 Special Subcommittee, Problems and Plans Committee, American Council on
 Education
 Delta Sigma Pi
 Save-the-Redwoods-League (Treasurer since 1921)
 California Colleges in China (Overseer)
 National Recreation Association (honorary)
 California Junior Republic (Trustee)
 National Plant, Flower & Fruit Guild, East Bay Branch (honorary president)
 Oakland National Horse Show Association (Director)
 Chevalier de la Legion d' Honneur (April 1932)
 State Food Administration Aid, (1932)
 Benjamin Ide Wheeler Distinguished Service Award (1934)
 California Pacific International Exposition (honorary committeeman)
 (1935-San Diego)
 California Commission on Agricultural Education, 1921-1923
 National Citizens Committee of Mobilization for Human Needs (1934)
 Latin American Lecturers Club (honorary member) (1935)
 National Committee on Inter-American Intellectual Cooperation (1935)
 Advisory Board, California Safety Council (1935)
 President, Berkeley Community Chest (1925-1927)
 Advisory Committee National League of Women Voters (1935)

Commander of the Order of the Crown of Roumania (1936)
 Member, Regional Committee, Thomas Alva Edison Foundation Campaign (1936)
 (Dissolved '46; Life fellowship in Foundation, 1942)
 San Francisco Bay Exposition (Director) (1936)
 Member, National Committee, Jane Addams Memorial Fund (1936)
 Board of Visitors to U.S. Naval Academy (1936)
 Sponsor, The Seeing Eye (Los Angeles) (1936)
 Member, General Committee - Boulder Power Inaugural of Southwest
 Sponsor, Society for Study and Prevention of Syphilis and Gonorrhea in
 Northern California
 Director, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce (1937-39)
 Member, U.S. Constitution Sesquicentennial Committee for City of Berkeley
 Honorary member, School Library Association of California (1936)
 Sponsor, Los Angeles Art Association (1937)
 National Advisory Council, Masaryk Institute (1938)
 Endorsement Committee, America's Town Meeting of the Air (Town Hall) (1940)
 Advisory Com. on Education and Youth, Southern Section Region Nine
 Republican Program Committee (1938)
 Officier de L'Ordre National de La Legion d'Honneur (1939)
 Advisory Board, Women's Field Army, American Society for the Control of Cancer (1939)
 California Historical Society (1939)
 Knight of the Order of the Iron Crown of Italy (1938)
 Member, Pacific Area, G.G.I.B.
 Director, San Francisco Community Chest (1939)
 Berkeley Traffic Safety Comm. (1939-1940)
 Sponsor, Finnish Relief Fund (1939)
 Sponsor, Committee on Mental Hygiene
 Advisory Committee, California Youth Survey
 Member, Board of Governors, Pan American Trade Committee (1940)
 Director, Community Development Assn. Los Angeles (1940)
 Sponsor, National League of Women Voters (1940)
 Member, National Child Refugee Committee (1940)
 Radio Advisory Comm., Town Hall, New York
 Director, California State Chamber of Commerce
 Member, California State Council of Defense
 Director, Council for Democracy (1940)
 Executive Comm., University of California San Francisco Symphony Forum
 Hon. President, Comm. for Northern California American Field Service (1941)
 Hon. Director, United China Relief, 1942
 President, California Folklore Society, 1941
 Member, Defense Savings Comm. for Northern California, 12-11-41
 Member, National Red Cross Advisory Comm. 12-14-41, 2-3-44
 Hon. Chairman, Board of Directors, Pacific House 12-20-41
 Member, War Prisoners' Aid Committee, International Y.M.C.A.
 Member, Pan American Society, Board 1942
 Member, organizing commission. Inter-American University of the Air (1942)
 Director, Pacific Coast section, American Social Hygiene Assn.
 Director, Woman's Foundation-March 1942
 Member, Advisory Committee on Officer Procurement and Training in Colleges
 (1942) Navy Department
 Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, California State Chamber of
 Commerce (1942) (1946-47)

Member, Pioneers of Rotary (Aug. 1942)
 Hon. Chairman, Carnegie Endowment International Relations Center at San Francisco (1942)
 Member, United Seamen's Services, Inc., Port Area Comm. of San Francisco (1944)
 Member, Central University Committee (1942)
 Director, Berkeley, Y.M.C.A. (1943)
 Member, National Advisory Committee, Inter-Religious Council (1943)
 Save the Children Federation, 1943
 Member of Board of Governors of Lincoln Club, Los Angeles (1943)
 Member, Council for Promotion of Boys' Welfare (1943)
 Vice-President, National War Fund (1943)
 Director, California War Chest, Inc. (1943) (1945)
 Member, Joint Army-Navy Board for Training Unit Contracts - 1943-45
 Cleveland Conference (Aug. 25, 1943)
 Citizens Advisory Committee on Coordination of Research Facilities, State Reconstruction and Reemployment Committee, Chairman 1943
 Advisory Member, Writers Conference, 1943
 Hon. Member, Advisory Board, United Yugoslav Relief Fund (1944)
 Southern California Symphony Association (1944), Member of Board of Trustees
 American Friends of the Hebrew University, Sponsor, 1944
 Historical Society of Southern California, 1944
 Honorary Comm., Negro Press Award (6-2-44)
 National Committee, China's Double Tenth Anniversary 5-31-42
 Board of Directors, Southern California Council on Inter-American Affairs, Los Angeles, June 1944
 Member, Special Committee, U.S. Veterans Administration (July 1944)
 Member, Nonpartisan Association for Franchise Education, Inc. (Dissolved 2-1944)
 Sponsor, World Order, Board of Christian Education
 Director, California Safety Council; Vice President in 1947
 Member, Executive Council, American Cancer Society (10-9-44)
 Member, Hon. Committee for Toscanini Benefit Concert (1-30-45)
 Member, Board of Trustees, Committee for Economic Development (2-2-45)
 Member, Board of Visitors to the Naval Academy for 1945
 Member, Sponsors' Committee, Army-Arts Contest, (1945) (2-27-45)
 Hon. Chairman, Northern California Books for Russia Committee (7-30-45)
 Member, Jury of Award in connection with essays on juvenile delinquency (4-2-45)
 Senior Advisor, American group on Allied Commission on Reparations, May-August 1945
 U. S. Naval Academy Centennial Commission, 7-12-45
 Sponsor, Naval Academy's Art Exhibition of Naval Personages and Traditions- (8-23-45)
 Member, Campaign Committee to raise funds for homeless children, Native Sons and Native Daughters of the Golden West, 8-29-45.
 Member, Board of Governors, Philippine Foundation of America, 9-5-45
 State Advisory Board, American Cancer Society, 1943, 9-5-45
 Member, National Honorary Committee for the Lidice Memorial, 10-24-45
 Member, Pacific Coast Branch, Advisory Committee on Atomic Energy of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (1945)
 Advisor, National Science Teachers Association (1946)
 Endorser, Fund for Near East Colleges (Jan. 1946)
 Sponsor, L.A. Chapter, National Probation Association (Jan. 1946)
 Member, National Committee, Cabot Memorial Fund (Jan. 1946)

Member Advisory Comm., United Negro College Fund, Inc. (Feb. 1946)
 Member, Committee on Human Rights (1946)
 Advisory Committee, Central Committee on Homeless Children (April 1946)
 Member, Citizens Committee, Community Chests of America (1946)
 Associate Member, S. F. Comité France-Amerique
 Advisory Committee, San Francisco Junior High School Problem (1946)
 National Advisory Council, Junior Achievement
 Member, Netherland-American Foundation (1946)
 Member Executive Committee, 1947 State Cancer Fund Campaign - 3-10-47
 Sponsor, Southern California Campaign, United Nations War Relief (4-15-47)
 National Committee, United Jewish Appeal (1947)
 Committee for Colleges, Save the Children Federation, (1947)
 Member, Marines Memorial Association, (1947)
 Vice-Chairman of Trustees, American Heritage Foundation, (1947)
 Member, Memorial Committee, George Washington Carver Memorial Institute, 1947;
 resigned 1949
 Judges Committee, Spiritual Mobilization contest on "Perils of Freedom" -
 Columbus Day '47
 National Citizens Committee, Community Chests of America, 1947-48-49
 Chairman, Natural Resources Committee, California State Chamber of Commerce,
 1946-47
 Member, Participation Committee, World Statistical Congress, 1947
 Sponsor, 160th Anniversary Progress, Signing of Constitution of U.S., 1947
 Vice-Chairman, National Christian Committee of the United Jewish Appeal, 1947
 Citizens Committee for the Marshall Plan - 11-4-47
 Sponsor, Pacific Southwest Area Hi-Y and Tri Hi-Y Congress (1947)
 President, International House Association - 1-12-48
 Member, Special Committee on Tax Exemption, American Council on Education - 1-21-48
 Trustee, World Affairs Council of Northern California for year 1948 - (12-24-47)
 Sponsor, Committee for Equality in Naturalization - (4-10-47)
 Member, National Council, United Negro College Fund (1-29-48)
 Member, Higher Education Committee for Booker T. Washington Fund - (2-4-48)
 American Council, Institute of Pacific Relations, 1930; Chairman, 1942; Member,
 Board of Trustees, 1946; Trustee, 3 year term, beginning Feb. 17, 1948
 Member, Panel of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, (3-16-48)
 Hon. Committee sponsoring the Booker T. Washington Benefit Concert - (3-29-48)
 Hon. Chairman, Citizens Committee for City Bond Issue (4-6-48)
 Member, Education Committee, and President's Committee on National Employ-the-
 Physically-Handicapped Week - (3-5-48)
 Honorary Advisor, Third Annual Football Festival, Berkeley, (5-26-48)
 Member of Board, Polish Inst. of Arts and Sciences in America (6-11-48)
 Trustee, Inst. of International Education, (6-7-48)
 Sponsor, American Field Service International Scholarships (Red Cross)
 June 1948
 Hon. Member, Premedical Society, University of California, (6-3-48)
 Member, Committee of Invitation, Moral Rearmament World Assembly, (5-24-48)
 Sponsor, National Jewish Hospital at Denver - (7-23-48)
 Sponsor, American Heart Association - (9-7-48); national sponsor, 1950 campaign
 (9-30-49)

Member, 1949 Exposition Committee Advisory Board, California Section of the
 American Chemical Society (1949 Pacific Chemical Exposition), (9-7-48)
 Member, National Gorgas Hall of Fame Committee, 9-11-48 Cont. 12-4-58
 Sponsoring Committee, American Aid to France Benefit Concert, Los Angeles
 Air Force Advisory Committee on ROTC Affairs, Nov. 1948
 Sponsor, campaign for funds of Dominican Convent - (1-10-49)
 Sponsor, National Go-to-Church Campaign, Los Angeles, (12-29-48)
 Statewide Advisory Committee 1949 campaign, American Cancer Society (12-4-49)
 Sponsor, American Overseas Aid and U.S. Appeal for Children - (1-2-48)
 Adv. Board of College Presidents' College Scholarship Fund for Negro Students,
 (3-19-48)
 Member, Board of Directors, Council for Democracy, (1-4-49)
 Sponsor, Save the Children Federation, (3-16-48)
 American Social Hygiene Association (on Board of Directors, San Francisco Branch),
 March 1948
 President, California Conservation Council, Feb. 1949
 Member, Advisory Board, National Arts Foundation, (4-8-49); Adv. Comm. on
 Education, (11-3-49)
 Member, Advisory Committee, Meals for Millions Foundation, (5-18-49)
 Board of Directors, National Citizens Committee, Hoover Report, (5-2-49);
 Board of Dir. of Northern Californians for the Hoover Report, 11-10-49
 Member, University of Nebraska Foundation, 5-26-49
 Association of Colleges and Universities of Pacific Southwest - Member Executive
 Comm. 1941; President (Western College Association), 1942
 Member, Air Force Advisory Committee on ROTC affairs (1948)
 Sponsor, Centennial Anniversary of organized Bible Society work in California, 1949
 President, International House Association, founded Dec. 1947
 Hon. citizen, New Orleans, the International City, May 31, 1949
 Member, American Society for Engineering Education, July 1949
 Hon. Committee, 25th anniversary exhibit of 18th Century French art, California
 Palace of Legion of Honor, 1949
 Royal Order of the North Star (Sweden), 1950
 Assoc. Chairman, National Christian Committee of United Jewish Appeal, 2-28-50
 Trustee, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 1930
 Member of Committee on Educational Program on behalf of (Point Four) Technical
 Assistance to Underdeveloped Areas, United Nations
 Member, local Advisory committee, United Negro College Fund, Inc. 4-17-50; 4-26-51
 Member, Citizens Sponsoring Committee for 5th anniversary celebration of signing
 of United Nations Charter, San Francisco Youth Assn. 5-8-50
 Member, Committee on Technical Assistance, American Association for the United
 Nations, 4-25-50
 Crusade for Freedom, Member, National Crusade Council, 8-28-50
 National Thrift Committee, Inc., Advisory Council 12-1-50
 Committee on Present Danger, 12-11-50
 Alameda County Heart Association, Member - 2-8-51
 Bay Area Council, Member, Board of Governors - 4-23-51
 President, Federation of East Bay Community Chests - 1951
 Member, Advisory Board, American Academy of Asian Studies, January 1951
 National Advisory Council, U.S. National Student Assoc., September 1951

Patron, St. Olaf Choir, Berkeley 1952 performance, Central Lutheran Church
 Member, American Ordinance Association 1952
 Sponsor, National Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Inc. (Jan. 1952)
 Member, California Assn. of Adult Education 1951
 Commander of the Order of St. Olaf (Norway) 1952
 Sponsor, Committee to secure Emergency Aid for Chinese Intellectuals, Jan. 1952
 Member, and Dir. (3 yr. term), Belgian American Educational Foundation, March 1952
 Freedom House - Member of Robert Patterson Memorial Committee, August 1952
 Veterans Administration, Consultant to Vocational Rehabilitation and Education
 Advisory Com., Aug. 1952
 Boy Scouts of America, Hon. member of National Council, Aug. 1952-1960
 Rhodes Scholarship Com., Chr., Southwestern District Com., Nov. 1952
 Director, San Francisco Social Hygiene and Health Assn., Jan. 1953
 Sponsor, Youth Lounge, First Methodist Church of Oakland, 1-28-53
 Member, Advisory Council, Family Relations Center, San Francisco, 1-28-53
 Member, California Safety Council, 1953
 Sponsor, Fund Drive for Institute of Interactional Education, 2-4-53
 Member, Bay Area Educational Television Assn., 2-10-53
 American Institute of Management, New York, 1953
 Director, East Bay Federation of Community Chests, 2-10-53
 Hon. sponsor, Amvets Service Foundation, 1953
 Hon. chairman, California Save the Children Federation, 8-20-53
 Trustee, Hall of our History, 9-1-53 (defunct 1954)
 Commissioner, National Commission on Accrediting, 9-9-53
 Trustee and President, International House Assn., New York, 1954
 Hon. President, California Conservation Council, 1954
 Advisory sponsor, Model United Nations Conference, 1-28-54
 Commonwealth Club (since 1941)
 Member, General Comm. American Mining Congress, S.F., Sept. 1954
 Member, Care Committee for Austrian Flood Relief and Rehabilitation of No.
 California 1954
 Sponsor, Newspaper for Chinese Intellectuals in the U.S. 1954
 Sponsor, Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals, Inc. 1955
 Sponsor, Free China Fund for Medical and Refugee Aid, 1955
 Trustee, American Heritage Foundation, 1945-57
 Sponsor, United Negro College Fund campaign in No. California, 1955
 Member, Library Patrons of Occidental College 1956
 Member, Special Comm. on use of Tideland and Offshore Oil Royalty Funds, State
 Chamber of Commerce, 1956
 Member, Advisory Board, Saline Water Conversion Program, Department of Interior,
 1956
 Ambassador for President Eisenhower to inauguration of Syngman Rhee, 1956
 Honorary Fellow, American College of Dentists, 10-16-55
 Director, Alameda County Chapter, American Assn. for United Nations, 4-30-58
 (3 yr. term)
 California Academy of Sciences, 10-3-58 (honorary)
 Chr., California Adv. Committee on Civil Rights, 1958-1959
 Member of National Council of Atlantic Union Com. Inc., Nov. 5, 1958
 U.S. Committee for Refugees 12-21-59
 St. Andrew's Society of S.F., Life Member 1-21-60

Member, Advisory Commission to Joint Interim Committee on the Public Education,
California 1958-60
Member, Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Bldgs., and Monuments
7-1-59 for Six-Year Period
Member, Board of Visitors to the Air University, 1960 (three-year term)
Newspaperboys "Hall of Fame," charter member, 8-60
National Fund for Graduate Nursing Education Sept. 1960
Member, National Com. for Support of the Public Schools, 1962
Director, East Bay Regional Parks District (Calif.) 1958-67, Pres. of Board,
1963-67
Trustee, The Athenian School, California Chr. of Board 1961-68, Honorary Chr.
1968-
Honorary Fellow, International College of Dentists, 1964-
Honorary Member Board, Ernest Block Society 1964-
Hall of Fame of Great Americans, Elector 1950-1965
Charter Member Berkeley Fellows, 1968-

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

1958

Regents, faculty, relatives and friends, we of the graduating class salute you on this ninety-fifth Commencement Day of the University of California. On thirty-three of these Commencement Days I have spoken at the exercises, in the beginning on the Berkeley campus alone, and latterly on from three to five campuses, from Davis in the north to Riverside in the south. On each of these previous occasions I have delivered a last message to those about to be graduated. Now the time has come for me to say my last words of all, for I am this year to be graduated along with the Class of 1958, which has already graciously conferred upon me an honorary membership in its distinguished company, and to have conferred upon me, by the authority vested in The Regents, a new title--President Emeritus.

These 1958 words of mine, however, will not be addressed by me to myself for I have not yet gotten to the point where I talk to myself. They will be spoken as in other years to those who a few minutes ago received undergraduate, graduate and professional academic degrees, and became alumni of the University. Nor will my words, except perhaps at the very end of this address be words of farewell. They will as usual be words of counsel as to how you who are about to begin the practice of life may make the most of the opportunities that your University has spread before you.

First I would remind you that the end and purpose of a university worthy of the name is neither to fill the heads of its graduates with more facts than they can hold, nor merely to improve their personalities and skills. One of its highest purposes, and the one I propose to talk about this afternoon, is to develop insight and understanding that will enable each of you, throughout your life, to foresee at least some of the possible results of your projected ideas and actions, and those of others. Lacking the capacity to discount and reject

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ideas of little merit, and to sense and act upon ideas that are good, most human beings must wait for events to overtake their ventures and experiments. They lack the powers of analysis and imagination that would enable them to anticipate what is likely to happen. I covet for each of you who is graduating today the God-like gifts of insight and understanding.

With these gifts, even in limited degree, you may face the future without anxiety as to your careers. I say this with full cognizance of the turmoil and uncertainty into which the political and economic affairs of our times have fallen the world around, and of the conclusion you may therefore draw that I am merely cheer-leading when the game is all but lost. My confidence is based upon a belief that the very insecurity of the age in which we live is a challenge to men and women with the capacity to think. The great advances of mankind, both socially and biologically, have come out of periods when wit and will had to make their way against unfriendly environments--and many of them periods when the struggle was literally to survive.

Whatever each of you personally may choose to do, your generation will have abundant opportunity to blaze new trails, to be creative, to salvage and revitalize traditions that have been thoughtlessly renounced, as well as to lay foundations for new and productive traditions, and for worthy personal careers. In the next twenty years, which will probably be the most telling years of your life, many of the formulas that now guide the thinking both of men and of nations will have to be adjusted to the new circumstances of an age of atomic science and universal technology. New kinds of leaders will have to be developed, new kinds of statesmen, new kinds of businessmen, new kinds of farmers, new kinds of engineers, new kinds of labor leaders, new kinds of men--period.

This future, there is reason to believe, will be closed far more completely than is the present to men of undisciplined capacities, to business-as-usual

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routiners, to the mouthers of stale formulas, to the reactionaries who forget nothing and learn nothing, and to the radicals who sell themselves into slavery to rigid dogmas. The future of business, the future of education, the future of the professions then should be capturable and controllable by men who bring to their processes minds and characters that are free, disciplined and realistic.

I do not seek by these brave words to persuade you to believe that for each individual in the better tomorrow intelligence will be everything, and the nature of the social order in which he lives will be nothing. This would be absurd. But I do nail to my door the thesis that there is no substitute for individual thinking, individual character and individual struggle. America has been converted by forces such as these from a wilderness inhabited by savages into a civilization of widely-spread opportunity, freedom and well-being. It will continue to make even faster progress in these directions if yours, the oncoming generation, cultivates and clings to the ancient virtue of self-reliance.

For there is no flaw in the social theories, economic policies or political organization of our society that steady and responsible intelligence of a high order cannot correct. America is not even seriously ill, let alone dying, as her chief and deluded rival in time will learn. Nor is the political or even the diplomatic genius of the nation bankrupt. There is still leadership to be found in groups such as this graduating class and others like it throughout the land, leadership that suffers neither from the rigor mortis of reaction nor the St. Vitus dance of irresponsible utopianism--leadership for labor and politics and industry and agriculture, as well as for the professions including the great profession of teaching. It is for each one of you to seek that kind of leadership, and for the best of you to become a part of it.

The State of California, through the University of California, has done much for you. To each of you it has offered education of the finest quality and thus added immeasurably to your prospect of a successful life. What do you propose to

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offer in return? How are your personal hopes and ambitions geared to those major forms of society that men call community, state and nation? Do you think of these as an extension of your individual life, or as something quite outside of it? Are there sacrifices which you feel called upon to make for the common good? Have you any consciousness of social obligation? The transition of California from the intensely individualistic life of the Wild West to the complexities of a burgeoning industrialism has induced radical changes. Never before has the need been so great for intelligent and fearless leadership.

The charge, then, that I would give you men and women upon whom the University of California confers degrees on this (variable) date of June, 1958, this day of Commencement, traditionally a day of memory and high resolve, is that you dedicate yourselves anew to the continuing search for truth, and that you build your personal careers into the structure of your community, your state and your nation. Thus and thus only can you hope to repay what you have been given on this campus in no carefully calculated fashion, but gladly, freely and generously. And to this end, I hope that you will think of your Alma Mater always, not only as a fond mother, which she is and will continue to be, but also as a parent mindful of the public duty of her children and scornful of sons and daughters who seek only their own material success and illusory happiness.

So much for all the other members of this graduating class to whom I have addressed myself thus far, and now for just a word of farewell as I join with you in parting from my official connection with our University. "Farewell" is a word often uttered lightly and forgotten readily. But when this word marks the rounding off of a chapter in life, the severing of ties many and cherished, the parting all at once with many friends of the long years, and especially when it is spoken in a place of memories and sentiment, such as the beautiful campus of the oaks, it somehow sticks in the throat. "Farewell" has been defined as "the word that makes

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us linger," yet it does not prompt me to many other words today. Perhaps it is best expressed in few. Fortunately I am not going away alone. You who are being graduated this afternoon, and the one hundred and ninety thousand students upon whom I shall have conferred degrees before I leave the presidency, one hundred and twenty thousand of them from the Berkeley campus, will be my spiritual if not my corporal companions. Nor do I go away empty-handed. I go laden with happy memories, inexhaustible I am sure, for as long as I may live, and I go with high hopes for the future of the University, for there is nothing that succeeds like a successor. And so I go willingly, even gladly, though I go with half my heart left behind. Good-by and good luck to all of you!

ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1963

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

June 1963

When President Kerr graciously invited me, an aboriginal alumnus of the University of California, celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of his graduation as a Bachelor of Science in the Class of 1913, to deliver the Commencement Address to the Class of 1963, I was naturally moved to refresh my memory as to what President Benjamin Ide Wheeler, our President, had chosen to say to me and my classmates on their great day. This I found to be so helpful to me, both as to length (for he spoke only for fifteen minutes) and as to substance, that I shall begin today by quoting its first paragraph:

"Resistlessly the generations come trooping up to take the place of those which climb up the hill and vanish behind the ridge. Each takes its brief turn at ownership of the world's accumulated store and at control of the institution of human society--then goes its way. Commencement is the day above all days which forces this stern procession upon our notice. And now here comes the class of 1913 pushing before it the class of 1912, and along with 1912 all the others of us, and there is no escape. The young fold mostly think that system of possessions and losses, honors and mishaps, which we call 'the world' moves by us like a panorama while we stand and gaze, whereas the real truth is that 'the world' stands calmly still, while we by classes and generations in long unending line are merely marching through it and using it according to our turn. It is the generations that unroll, rather than the fates. The chief significance of this day is that you of 1913 today enter upon the beginnings of your trusteeship for the joint administration and use of that accumulated store of goods and manners which we identify as human society."

The trusteeship to which President Wheeler referred in this quotation is almost infinitely more difficult in the complex world of 1963 than it was fifty years ago

in 1913. The intervening decades have witnessed the rise of two tyrannies seeking world domination, one Hitler's Germany, under the aegis of national destiny, and the other Soviet Russia under the deceptive banner of Communism. Thus you of the graduating class have witnessed the profound and unreconcilable difference between our society that tolerates differences of opinion and others that demand conformity, muffle even the mildest protests, and shoot offenders into silence. If you and your world are to continue to escape a tyranny of either the right or the left, you must be on the alert for the signs, the habits and the temperaments that lead inevitably to intolerance and fanaticism. To this end, the University of California has offered you an education designed to fit into a life both practical and spiritual--an education that not only interests you and occupies your time, but also one that acquaints you with ideals and attitudes that, over the centuries, have developed greatness in men and women. It has sought not only to prepare you to earn a living, by your experience in classrooms, libraries and laboratories, but also to offer you a philosophy to expand and enrich your minds, so that your reaction to disturbing problems may be slanted as little as possible by prejudice. In short it has aimed to make you truly educated men and women, fit to assume responsibilities for yourselves, your communities, your country and the world; to strive for satisfactions other than wealth or power; and to establish in your hearts the desire to be good neighbors with all men.

The university that does not keep abreast of new knowledge is doomed to mediocrity not only in the education it offers but also in the kind of students it attracts. New ideas and researches, new processes and procedures, are the marks of its quality; and organized search for new knowledge takes the place of invention dependent upon accident or the infrequent genius of the individual. Only thus can a university contribute its full share of intellectual leadership, greater freedom and finer service; and thereby help to create a way of life which all men and women may follow in dignity. Such a new and civilized world can be given birth and life only if ingrown habits of thought and feeling--old concepts, old formulas, old methods,

the outmoded habiliments of bygone ages, are brought to heel and guided by authenticated knowledge.

Today we know far more about the stars in their courses and the planets in their orbits than men have ever known before. It is for your generation to apply to social relationships the methods of science that have made this possible: the minute examination of facts, the careful determination of their relationships; in short the creative processes of inference, verification and conclusion. Nor should it ignore the forces of man's spirit, the power of which approaches the infinite; and insure those precious human values that are not and never will be susceptible to the calculations of mathematicians and scientists alone--values that may not make men wealthy but will help them to live more richly.

As Bernard Shaw once said in an off moment,

"Life is no brief candle to me, but a splendid torch that I have gotten hold of for a while, and I mean to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to the next generation."

Similarly, Benjamin Ide Wheeler, in another part of his address to the graduating class of 1913, said,

"Do not allow yourself to think that, by some form of livelihood you have adopted, you are excused from following the social ideal of life. The things which I am talking about go with all the livelihoods, in fact with just plain living. It is a poor outlook for a community when it has professionalized all its 'uplift' exercises and relegated them into the hands alone of clergymen, teachers, and disengaged women....If these people do not have the support of the laity how can we blame them if they drop into the barren ruts of perfunctoriness." And then he went on to say, "It is a great old world to live in, brim full of opportunities for people who have courage and cheer, and love the truth, and want to work;...but it is a cold, hard world for such as live

to themselves alone."

In the same spirit I say to you today that, if you will be open-minded and broad-minded to suggestions of change and improvement, if you will set yourselves firmly against those who, in their lust for power and greed for gain, would exploit the opportunity that is your heritage, then the days of achievement for America are only beginning. But if you cannot become fully developed, well-rounded men and women rather than bumptious go-getters; if you fail to show character to match your opportunities; if you cannot stand firm when plans go wrong and courageously assume your responsibility as a citizen; then our democracy will eventually fail, as would any other system of government. The physical frontier of America may be gone, with its opportunities for sudden wealth, but a new and better world I believe is opening along the spiritual frontier--a world in which the resources we are to derive from science will be controlled for the benefit of all rather than the few; a world in which socialization of national purpose will prevent a barren and unsatisfying individualism. The call of the hour is for leadership, adequate in its knowledge, sympathetic in its understanding, tolerant in its outlook and steadfastly dynamic in its courage.

As Walter Lippmann said at a Charter Day early in my presidency,

"Men have learned what their ancestors did not know, that an ordered society is not ordained for them but has laboriously to be constructed and managed. They have learned that the good life will not be provided for them by a benign Providence, but has to be achieved by themselves. Not to be ministered to, but to minister, is the true goal and chief justification of both culture and power. The world today is in the midst of another of its upheavals. Science has been prostituted to policies of murderous war, and we must prepare to defend ourselves if knowledge is to continue to grow and life to be thereby enriched."

Twenty-three hundred years ago Plato said that "Democracy follows aristocracy, and dictatorship follows democracy. Privilege begets revolution and chaos begets regimentation."

There are many today who believe that Plato was right in saying that "democracy is already dead and doesn't know it." I hope that before any of you reach this conclusion, you will reacquaint yourselves with the Constitution of the United States, particularly the first ten amendments known as the Bill of Rights. Into that Bill were written by the founding fathers freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of the press. I am as sincerely convinced of the truth of these principles as the men who wrote them. I believe they form a sound basis for government serving the highest aspirations of mankind and adaptable to the changing opinions and ideals of the centuries. Nor has this constitutionalism proved unfit to meet the social and economic conditions of the modern world. On the contrary it has meant an enormous advance in opportunities for the development and happiness of people. To urge that the capitalistic system with which it is aligned be abolished, in order to get rid of the parasites that inflict it, is like urging that a dog be killed to rid it of its fleas. Economic equality cannot be achieved in this country or any other country except by stifling liberty--a price far too high for self-respecting people to pay.

Our constitutional democracy is neither dead nor futile. Whether it continues to be successfully administered depends upon its present constituents and especially upon its oncoming generations, such as you who are to be graduated here today. If they cannot show character to match their opportunities, if they cannot stand firm when things go wrong and courageously assume their responsibilities as citizens, then our democracy will fail as would any other form of government. To the continued building of a new world, in which the resources derived by science may be controlled for the benefit of all, you are summoned. The call is for leadership, sympathetic in its understanding, tolerant in its outlook and dynamic in its courage. Do not

permit yourselves to be embittered by the disappointments of some of your elders; or your confidence to be impaired by their suspicions.

They are paying the penalty of their mistakes; you should profit by them. Above all, don't be content with contemplative inaction. Don't be satisfied to interpret the world; go out to change it. But remember that change does not mean destruction. Any attempts to recreate the world in seven days, without divine participation, will result inevitably in chaos, social disorder and general ruin. Utopias never work out as planned. But if you can keep our American system of government successfully working, as it has since the days of its beginnings, you will be keeping clear a way to the land of promise, and helping to lift from the hearts of men a load of sorrow and suffering which is now crushing many of them. The future lies with you, and our hopes, our confidence, and our prayers go with you as you enter upon its responsibilities and its opportunities.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



CLARK KERR

President of the University

E. W. STRONG

*Acting Chief Campus Officer at Berkeley*OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

June 29, 1961

President Emeritus Robert G. Sproul
University of California
Sproul Hall
Campus

Dear Bob:

Your kind letter of congratulation on my appointment gives me an opportunity to recall the first time you asked me to come to your office, then in California Hall. When I appeared, you told me that you were asking several members of the faculty to entertain freshman students in their homes and asked if Mrs. Strong and I would render this service to the University. Professor Goldsworthy was generally in charge of this program. For several years we entertained freshmen and to this day I still meet alumni who recall evenings at our home. As I become more and more immersed in administrative responsibilities, I come to recognize more and more your wisdom in calling me in for the service you wanted me to perform rather than delegating this to someone else. I hope that I have heeded and will continue to heed your example.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Strong



"O U R F A I R B O B"

A Musical Salute
By
The Los Angeles Chapter
CALIFORNIA CLUB CONVENTION 1958

OPENING NUMBER: ("With A Little Bit of Luck")

Chorus: Oh! Bob Sproul was founder of our Cal Club
And so through him we promoted Unity
Oh! Bob Sproul was founder of our Cal Club
But --- With a little bit of luck
 With a little bit of luck
We will tell you how it came to be
With a little bit
With a little bit
With a little bit of Bruin luck!

Narrator: The scene is Berkeley, the University of California.
The year - 1930 - The Regents are engaged in the
serious task of selecting a new President. One
of the candidates is the young assistant business
manager - Robert Gordon Sproul. The suspense was
mounting hourly. But then, from nowhere, came a young
man to rally to his support. Garff Wilson quickly
recruited a small group of students with promises
of free beer and led them to the Sproul resident.
With Garff leading -- they sang:

Chorus: (To the tune of "You Did It")

Tonight, old man, you'll be it
You'll be it
You'll be it
You'll come through, you'll prove it
To us all tonight
You'll have those Regents ecstatic
Fanatic
Lunatic
You'll have them in a panic
You'll be it tonight!

Narrator: From this humble beginning, Cal Club was born!
Under the new President's guiding hand, the
organization flourished - as time marched on, the
University grew and expanded. - But, suddenly, dark
clouds appeared on the horizon -- Unity was threatened.
In 1956, the Los Angeles chapter gathered to plead
to the President:

- 2 -

Chorus: (To the tune of "Wouldn't It Be Loverly")

We want out of the PCC
 All we want is to be free
 Please! Bob, please! Oh, can't you see
 Wouldn't it be loverly,
 Loverly! P.C.C.!
 Loverly! Free! Free! Free!

Narrator: Fortunately, in times of crises, Garff was always there to rally the groups, to lead them in festive song when spirits sank low. At Cal Club Convention the gaiety rose to such heights, that the purposes seemed confused. Who can forget that memorable year of 1957 at Santa Barbara when they gathered to sing to the President:

Chorus: (To the tune of "We Could Have Danced All Night")

We could have danced all night
 We could have danced all night
 But Garff was on the scene
 We could have laughed all day
 We could have laughed all day
 But speeches intervened.
 We only hoped this would be fun for us
 Instead of talk and work a ton for us
 We want to drink our beer,
 We want to drink our beer,
 We want to drink! Drank! Drunk our beer!

Narrator: And so --- 1958! Again, Convention time. The chapters travel to Berkeley for discussion and fellowship. Students came by every means. The southern delegations gather to sing this plea:

Chorus: (To the tune of "Get Me to the Church On Time")

We're leaving Berkeley in the morning,
 Full of Unity and beer so fine
 Cal was there to woo us,
 They surely did pursue us,
 But --- get us to the train on time!

Narrator: But before they leave, the Los Angeles chapter of California Club gathers before the President and Mrs. Sproul for one last song -- to bid affectionate farewell to THEIR FAIR BOB!

-3-

Chorus: (To the tune of "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face")

We've grown accustomed to your face
Because it hangs in Kerkhoff Hall,
We've grown accustomed to your laugh
It boomed across the quad,
Your voice, your walk
Your wife, your talk
These things we always will recall
The University has grown
You've given guidance, strength, and spirit
And your leadership was true.
Cal Club stand together, and it's all because of you,
We've grown accustomed to your laugh,
Accustomed to your voice,
Accustomed to BOB SPROUL!

FINIS

APPENDIX B

Re: Agnes Roddy Robb

Regents' Resolution

Centennial Citations

Pacific School of Religion
Honorary Life Membership

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

In Appreciation

AGNES RODDY ROBB

WHEREAS, Agnes Roddy Robb, alumna of the University in the Class of 1918 and Administrative Secretary to Robert Gordon Sproul, President Emeritus of the University of California, retired from active service on May 1, 1962, after forty-three years as a member of his staff beginning as an office clerk on August 8, 1919; and

WHEREAS, Agnes Roddy Robb brought to all her responsibilities loyalty and devotion which made no effort too great or day too long, and which contributed immeasurably to the signal service of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Gordon Sproul as President and First Lady of the University for a period of time which has rarely been exceeded or even matched in the history of higher education in this nation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Regents of the University of California officially express to Agnes Roddy Robb their appreciation for her long and faithful service, which has demonstrated so effectively the important part that intelligent staff support plays in university administration; and that in witness thereof she be presented with a copy of this resolution appropriately inscribed.

ATTEST:


Secretary of The Regents of the University of California



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

June 14, 1968

CENTENNIAL CITATION - AGNES R. ROBB

Agnes R. Robb is one of the unsung heroines of the last fifty years. Ever since her graduation with the Class of 1918, she has single-mindedly devoted her time and talents to the University. She is foremost among that rare group of women who have quietly supported and inspired the men who have built the University to greatness. For most of the past fifty years she has been Secretary to President-Emeritus Sproul. During his 28 years as President, she was not merely Secretary but Chief of Staff -- managing the President's Office, evaluating and routing correspondence, supervising the President's calendar, receiving visitors, advising and assisting Deans, professors, and students, and protecting Dr. Sproul from irritations and time-wasters. She continued to fulfill these functions after Dr. Sproul retired -- and after she herself retired. She probably knows more about the development, the inner workings, and the personality of the University than any other living person -- with the exception of Dr. Sproul himself. She is the epitome of enlightened service and devotion. This citation is a mere token of the admiration and affection we feel for her.

 A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger W. Heyns".

Roger W. Heyns

Honorary Life Member in the
President's Cabinet

Pacific School of Religion
Berkeley, California



This Certificate is awarded to

MISS AGNES R. ROBB

*Who is entitled to all privileges of membership in the President's Cabinet
as an expression of appreciation for significant contributions
to the life of the school.*

In witness whereof we have caused our hand and seal to be set hereto and given in
Berkeley in the state of California, this 9 day of the month of November
in the year of our Lord 1967.

Stuart LeRoy Anderson
PRESIDENT

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Harriet Siegel Nathan

Graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1941 with an A.B. in Journalism. Was assistant women's editor and managing editor of The Daily Californian, then known as the Monarch of the College Dailies. Prepared President Sproul's biennial report to the legislature, 1942-44; wrote advertising copy; edited house journals; served on local and state boards of the League of Women Voters, primarily in the fields of local and regional government and publications. Returned to U.C. for a Master of Journalism degree in 1965. Wrote for the University's Centennial Record. Now doing research, writing, and editing for the Institute of Governmental Studies, U.C., Berkeley.