

News and Notes

His career was a blend of public service and teaching. He interrupted his undergraduate education to serve in the Army Air Service (1918-19), where he rose from private to second lieutenant. He began teaching at Trinity College in Round Rock, Texas (1920-21), then moved to a college in Minneapolis (1921-22), and in 1922-23 earned his Masters degree at the University of Chicago. In 1924-25 he taught at New York University, and in 1925-26 was a graduate assistant in political science at the University of Chicago. He taught at the University of Rochester, 1926-27, and then was appointed an assistant professor, later associate professor, at New York University (1927-38), where he also became director of research in public administration. In 1934 he served as Chairman of the Fusion Party in New York City and managed the successful campaign for the mayoralty of Fiorello H. LaGuardia. In 1939 he moved to Indiana University as professor of government and director of the Institute of Politics, which was created for him.

Taking wartime leave in 1942, he served the government in various capacities—as a civilian, with the Army, with the Office of Strategic Services, and finally with the Office of War Information. In 1945 he became Chief of the U.S. Information Service, Copenhagen. In 1946 he was visiting professor at the University of New Mexico. He returned to Indiana University in 1947 and managed the successful campaign of a reform candidate for the office of mayor. In 1948 he directed the strategy of the successful Democratic candidate for governor, Henry F. Schricker. He was appointed Director of the Census in 1950 and supervised the 17th decennial national census, which he described as “the biggest single statistical undertaking in American history” up to that time. He left office in 1953 and became Chairman of the Political Science Department and Director of the Institute of Government at the University of Utah. He remained at Utah until 1961 but served as visiting professor at Michigan State University in 1960 and took extended leave to serve as a consultant to the New Jersey State Planning Bureau. In 1961 he left Utah to become Chairman at California Lutheran College; he finished his teaching career at California State University, Northridge (1963-76).

His interests were primarily in comparative government (the United States, the Scandinavian countries, and Germany) and American government (political parties, elections, voting behavior, administration, automation, planning, and urban government). He received a number of grants for research from various organizations, including the Social Science Research Council (1930-31), the Rockefeller Foundation Spelman Fund (1934-36), Remington-Rand (1953-54), the Local Government Survey Commission of the State of Utah (1955-56), and IBM (1971-72). Among his honors were an honorary LL.D., Augustana College, 1950; a Gold Medal for Exceptional Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1952; and a period as guest of honor of the West German Government, 1964.

Roy Peel was a devoted Lutheran. He was also a lifelong champion of reform and improvement in government. He said that his thinking had been particularly influenced by several great teachers at Chicago, especially political scientists Charles E. Merriam, Leonard D. White, and Quincy Wright; historians A. C. McLaughlin, William E. Dodd, and G. Scherill; and economists John H. Williams and Paul Douglas. At the time of his death he had finished all but the last chapter of an autobiography. His mature wisdom and keen political insight were of considerable benefit to his colleagues as well as his students; and his active mind, zest for work, encouragement of others, and love of the academic life were an inspiration. He was a gentleman, exemplifying kindness and decency and dignity.

Donations may be made by those who wish to do so to the Roy Victor Peel Memorial Scholarship, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois 61201.

Francis D. Wormuth
Dalmas H. Nelson
The University of Utah

John E. Reeves

John E. Reeves, who died on May 19, 1978, at the age of 75, had a long record of distinguished service to the University of Kentucky and the state of Kentucky. He received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1926 and the Master of Arts degree in 1938, both in political science, from the University of Kentucky. He joined the Political Science Department at the University in 1940, and served in that department, with occasional interruptions for governmental service, until he retired in 1968 with the rank of associate professor. He served as acting head of the department in 1948.

During his teaching career, Jack Reeves trained a large number of those who have served in Kentucky state and local governments during the last 20 years. He brought to the classroom a vast store of knowledge about Kentucky government, which was reflected in the book on that topic that he published in several editions, and in other monographs and articles on state and local government. He also brought to the classroom a warm interest in students and a determination to inspire in them the same interest in politics and government that he shared.

Jack Reeves was an active member of the University community. He was a member of the Senate and served on the Senate Council in 1962-64. He was an active member and officeholder in the AAUP. He served a term as president of the Kentucky Conference of Political Scientists, was on the council of the Midwest Political Science Association, and was a member of the American Political Science Association.

Jack Reeves played a vital role in government and politics before, during, and after his years at the University. He served in several federal

and state agencies, and for three years after his retirement (1974-77) he served as the first ombudsman of the Kentucky Department of Human Resources, handling more than 3,000 cases a year. He played a major role in the repeated efforts to revise the state constitution, through amendments or conventions, persisting in his belief that the people of Kentucky could be persuaded to see the need for a modern structure of government. He ran for local and legislative offices, campaigned for a variety of candidates, and served in political party offices.

Whether in the classroom, in government service, or in political campaigns, Jack Reeves persisted in his efforts to bring about honest, competent, modern government in the state of Kentucky. In these efforts he was always a political realist, but he never lost his vision of a better Kentucky. Some of his efforts fell short of success, but he contributed as much, and perhaps more, than any other private citizen over the last four decades to making politics and government work in his native state.

Malcolm E. Jewell
University of Kentucky

William L. Reno

William Lawson Reno passed away on October 8, 1978 at the age of 71.

Professor Reno was a broadly-based political scientist with special interests in jurisprudence, international law and political theory. His major academic service was at American University from 1946-1953 following an administrative tour with the War Production Board in World War II.

In 1953, he left academe to manage the family farming business. He retained his interests in political affairs and was a life-time member of the American Political Science Association and the American Society of International Law.

Professor Reno was a graduate of Princeton University, and earned his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley.

A. Lee Fritschler
Lowell Hattery
American University

William A. Steiger

On December 4, 1978, William A. Steiger, Member of Congress from Wisconsin, died in his sleep of a heart attack at age 40. With his death the Congress lost one of its most distinguished and constructive members; the Republican Party lost an articulate spokesman and leader; the political science profession lost a dedicated supporter; and the political scientists who had the good fortune to know and work with him lost a cherished friend.

Bill Steiger was a supporter and ally of political science. He was involved in the Congressional Fellowship from the start of his 12-year career in the House of Representatives. Every year since 1967 Congressional Fellows have served

on his staff. The 19 political scientists, journalists, and civil servants who are now Fellowship alumni of the Steiger Office had experiences that epitomized the program's ideals and goals. Their desks were in the Congressman's office and they observed and participated fully in his wide-ranging activities. They were given important legislative assignments and even an opportunity to visit the Sixth District with him. Bill Steiger's commitment to the Fellowship program was also reflected in his service on the program's Advisory Committee, where he played an active role in building support for the program within and outside Congress. He was a regular speaker at the seminars of the Fellows. In the week prior to his death, he had participated in a session with the Fellows that was characterized by brisk debate, candor, perceptively insights, and good humor.

His involvement with political science went well beyond the Congressional Fellowship program. For students of Congress, political parties, and American politics generally, Bill Steiger's door was always open. A session with Bill Steiger was beneficial, not only because he was well informed, bright, and candid, but because he thought like a social scientist. He, too, was seeking an understanding of politics that transcended anecdotes and inside deposterism. He comprehended fully what the political science enterprise was all about and we benefited from his understandings. He did more than meet with us, he made his office into our office while in Washington and he went out of his way to secure access to other Washington decision makers and data for us.

He had a consuming interest and commitment to politics, but it was not an interest born of self-aggrandizement. Rather, his concerns were for the substance of policy and the integrity of the political process. Though a relatively junior member of the House, his impact on a wide range of legislation was profound. National policy on the volunteer army, occupational health and safety, legal services for the poor, and tax reform bear his mark, as does the open housing statute of Wisconsin, where he served as a member of the State Assembly. He was dedicated to his Wisconsin constituents, but his approach was never parochial.

Bill Steiger was concerned also about the process of politics and determined to improve it. As a member of the Select Committee on Committees, he fought to reform and rationalize the committee system. He was one of the leaders of a Republican House task force that reformed the seniority system and was instrumental in shaping the Legislative Reform Act of 1970. Recently, he succeeded in making the Congressional Record an accurate account of what happens in the House floor.

Political scientists have long considered political parties an essential link between citizens and their government in a democracy. Bill Steiger shared that belief and was intensely involved in efforts to strengthen parties in general, and his Republican Party in particular. As chairman in the mid-1970s of the Rule 29 Committee