

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF WENDELL WILLIAM WRIGHT

The death of Wendell William Wright, on October 15, 1961, brings an irreplaceable loss to the University and a deep personal loss to his family and many friends.

Dean Wright was born in Greencastle, Indiana, on December 27, 1893, the son of Perry Wilson Wright and Ann Elizabeth Talbott Wright. He attended a rural school in Putnam County from 1899 to 1909 and graduated from high school in Greencastle, Indiana, in 1911. He received the A.B. degree in 1916 from Indiana State Teachers College; the A.M. degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, in 1924; and the Ph.D. degree from the same institution in 1929.

He began his career in education as a teacher in the rural schools in Vigo County; then became the principal of Rockville High School, and later was a teacher in Arsenal Technical High School in Indianapolis. Ever since he joined the faculty of the School of Education at Indiana University in 1925, his record of service has indeed been impressive: Assistant Professor, 1925-1928; Associate Professor, 1928-1929; Professor, 1929-1961; Director of Elementary Education, 1941-1959; member of the Self-Survey Committee appointed by President Wells in 1939 to chart the future course of the University; first Dean of the Junior Division, 1942-1946, during which time he introduced the essential features of the present program of orientation and counseling for freshman students; Director of the Office of Veterans' Affairs, 1944-1946; Dean of the School of Education, 1946-1959; and Vice-President of the University, 1952-1959. In 1959, he retired as Vice-President and Dean to resume teaching in the School of Education and to undertake specific assignments of study and research of general university interest.

While Vice-President of the University, his responsibilities involved the direction of administrative studies including cost studies of higher education and studies of institutional relationships with other colleges and universities. He was instrumental in the development of the widely known California and Western Conference Cost and Statistical Study. Also, he was mainly responsible for the development of the unique system of budgetary analysis now employed by the four-state institutions in submitting budget requests.

Dean Wright's responsibilities and honors extended far beyond the Indiana campus. He was elected president of the Indiana State Teachers Association in 1937 and of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in 1959. In 1950 he represented the United States at the International Conference of Universities in Nice, France. He was one of the organizers and the continuous secretary of the Indiana Conference of Higher Education. Under his direction in 1954 teacher education programs, financed by the United States International Cooperation Administration were placed in operation by Indiana University in Thailand.

He wrote extensively throughout his long career at Indiana University, being a frequent contributor to journals in the field of education and the author of a number of textbooks in reading, spelling, and arithmetic.

Dean Wright held membership in a number of important educational organizations, including the National Education Association, American Association of School Administrators, American Educational Research Association, Horace Mann League, and Phi Delta Kappa, professional fraternity for men in education.

Dr. Wright was married in 1922 to Miss Alita Lois Bussard, who died in 1957. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Wallace Montague Wright, whom he married in 1959, and by two daughters, Jean Talbott (Mrs. Carl Hammond) and Elizabeth Anne (Mrs. Andrew Petach), six grandchildren, and a brother, Raymond Wright.

Dean Wright possessed many rare qualities as a person, as a teacher, and as an administrator. His genuine warmth, his whole-hearted friendliness, and his sincere kindness toward others won him many close friends who will continue to remember him with deep affection. He took a personal interest in every student he knew and looked forward with a great deal of anticipation to the opportunities that his retirement from administrative responsibilities would afford him to spend a major portion of his time again in the classroom. As an administrator, he was far-sighted in planning, humble in spirit, and courageous in heart. He gave unstintingly of his time and energy to his administrative responsibilities, never losing faith in those with whom he worked. It may be said that he lived not for himself but for others and for the institution with which he was so closely associated for 36 years.

With firm conviction that Indiana University has suffered the loss of an inspiring teacher and an outstanding administrator, now be it resolved that the faculty pay its deepest respect to the memory of Wendell William Wright, that the resolution be recorded in the minutes of the Faculty Council and that a copy of it be sent to Mrs. Wallace Montague Wright; to his two daughters, Mrs. Jean Hammond and Mrs. Elizabeth Petach; and to his brother, Raymond Wright.

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