

E. Allen Helms

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

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

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

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Arthur N. Holcombe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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