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Dedication - F. Reed Dickerson

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
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Bloomington

Dedication—F. Reed Dickerson

The Board of Editors dedicates this issue to Professor of Law F. Reed Dickerson upon the occasion of his retirement, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the study of law.

Reed Dickerson

RALPH F. FUCHS*

In the fall of 1939, F. Reed Dickerson, then a newcomer to law teaching, joined the faculty of the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, of which I was a member. He and his attractive young wife, Jane, were good to be with. Consequently, a warm personal friendship arose between us and survived Reed's move to Pittsburgh the following fall. The friendship was renewed in Washington, D.C., when each of us lived there while working with the government during World War II. Reed remained in government service until 1958, to engage in and supervise others in the drafting of statutes and regulations, which had become a major interest of his. Our personal contacts were renewed during two years of that period when my wife and I again lived in the capital city, on leave from Indiana University, Bloomington. Since 1958, when Reed joined the Indiana University School of Law, we and the Dickersons have been together as members of the Law School, University and Bloomington communities.

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My choice of a rather personal beginning to this account of Reed, mentioning also some of his varied professional affiliations, outlines the knowledge I have of him and indicates that the *Indiana Law Journal* is paying tribute here to a lawyer and teacher whose interests and experience far transcend the ordinary. It is a fortunate circumstance that has placed me on the scene at the inception of Reed's law teaching career and again at its formal conclusion, with long periods of association between us. I believe I know my subject well.

So far I have mentioned only a selection of items about Reed, relating to his professional endeavors. One must be quick to add, as to him, prominent mention of his interest in music and the fine arts, which he and Jane have shared, making use of her education and experience in art. Together they have attended performances of virtually every opera and many of the concerts given by Indiana University's outstanding School of Music during their residence here; and they have participated as well in efforts to add to the support of that school and of the Department of Fine Arts. In their eyes, it is not sufficient for people who could do more simply to enjoy the benefits of attending performances and exhibitions. Rather, one should, within one's ability, lend support to the continued production of music and art, as Reed and Jane have done over the years. Reed also served for a long period as committee chairman and virtual director of Indiana University's Convocation Series of lectures and performances, given in the University's large Auditorium at 7:15 p.m. to adjust to student schedules. Convocations were free of charge beyond an appropriation from the overall activities fee levied on students at registration time. Famous people were often the speakers, and one might sometimes carry on an informal discussion with them after the main event—not infrequently in the Dickerson home.

It requires dedication and enthusiasm to remain active in such matters, alongside of one's duties in a professorship; but Reed's commitment and enthusiasm in relation to his fields of study and teaching were never less than for his extracurricular ones. They remained such as to produce conscientious teaching and a very substantial flow of articles, books and monographs relating mostly to his fields of concentration: legislation, legal drafting and products liability. His writings are not merely expository, but, usually, expressive as well of points of view and proposals for reform that are presented with conviction.

One other recurring aspect of Reed's professional work remains to be noted; and that is his belief in the efficacy of institutions, including membership organizations, in developing and spreading reforms, including legal reforms. If one hoped, for example, as Reed has, to change the prevailing philosophy and methods of legal drafting, it would not be enough to commit one's proposals to print in the hope that others would read and take heed. In addition, one would secure or seek to secure or be quick to accept participation in the deliberations of organizations concerned with the same matters, there to advocate one's proposals. Reed has followed this course through his membership in the American Bar Association, where he has been the head of its Standing Committee on Legal Drafting, the American Law Institute and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. British authorities have taken note of his work and his ideals, with consequent opportunities for him to speak abroad and to collaborate in relevant transnational endeavors. Wherever he goes in this country or abroad, he carries the banner of Indiana University with him; for this institution has no more loyal member of its community than Reed Dickerson. On many trips Jane has been with him, adding to the favorable effects.

Let me not convey the impression that Reed's professional life, apart from his teaching, has been largely a round of successful endeavors in behalf of innovative proposals, effectively presented and supported. On the contrary, his proposals, being innovative, have often been accepted only by minorities among those addressed, while the majorities have either let inertia govern their responses or have registered outright opposition. Reed's emotional involvement is too great to permit calm, ready acceptance of even interim defeat; but intellectually he recognizes that such are the ways of human deliberations. The innovator, while not relaxing his advocacy, must often bide his time. There is available too the relief of pure recreation, to which Reed knows how to resort. Perhaps that is the reason why his skill as a trumpeter in a university jazz ensemble has won him acclaim throughout the Bloomington campus.

In Reed Dickerson, then, and in Jane as well, the Indiana University Law School has had a priceless asset. Our colleague, to whom the *Indiana Law Journal* pays tribute on his retirement, is a man of high ability, widespread interests, great dedication and enthusiasm, and skill as a tactician in institutions having serious purposes. He and Jane are even better to be with now than when

they were young. If they were leaving altogether, his colleagues and many others would be saddened even while recognizing that the right to accept that option has been earned. Signs point, however, to the conclusion that they will remain, cultivating still the values to which they have adhered, with enthusiasm undiminished. Long may they be among us!
