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Remarks on the Retirement of Professor Harno

BECAUSE of his own ill health and that of Mrs. Harno, Professor Albert James Harno has retired from the faculty of the Hastings College of the Law as of the end of the first semester of the current year. This event interrupts, hopefully only for the time being, one of the most notable careers achieved by a law teacher in recent history.

Jim Harno was born in South Dakota seventy-seven years ago. South Dakota Wesleyan was his college, and Yale was his law school. He practiced law for three years in Los Angeles but in 1917 began a teaching career which was to continue without interruption until 1960 and he resumed in 1964. He was dean of the law school at Washburn College, Kansas, 1917-19, and professor of law at the University of Kansas, 1919-21. Then he went to the University of Illinois where, after one year as a professor of law, he became dean and lent distinction to that office for thirty-five years. Under his leadership the College of Law of the University of Illinois achieved a rank equal to that of the best law schools in the important middle western area of the United States.

The quiet wisdom of the Illinois dean was recruited into service in practically every activity having for its objective the improvement of American legal education or American law and its administration. The Association of American Law Schools made him its president in 1931. The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws made him its president in 1947. He was President of the American Judicature Society, 1953 to 1956. He was made a member of the Task Force of the President Hoover Commission which was to recommend improvements in the use of lawyers in Government operations. He was made a member of the Council for the Survey of the Legal Profession; a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation; a member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association; President of the Illinois Bar Association; a member of the Council of the American Law Institute.

Any one of the distinctions recited above would have marked a man as having brought honor and recognition to the law teaching profession. Dean Harno's numerous distinctions achieved this end to an incomparable degree.

Harno's alma mater, South Dakota Wesleyan, honored itself and him by awarding him an honorary doctorate. So also did Tulane Uni-

versity, Boston University, Temple University, and the University of Illinois.

When Dean Harno retired from the Illinois faculty in 1957, he was an obvious object of the recruiting talents of our late Dean David Snodgrass. But his coming to Hastings was delayed for one year because the Law School of the University of California at Los Angeles was in urgent need of an acting Dean and wanted Harno for the position. Dean Snodgrass yielded, for one year, and Harno came to Hastings in 1958. In 1960, the State of Illinois, having taken the revolutionary step of establishing a state-wide system of judicial administration, was in obvious need of an intelligent, progressive and wise administrator to initiate the new system. It asked the man who, as dean of its College of Law for thirty-five years, had had an important part in every movement in Illinois for the improvement of the administration of justice, to assume the task. Harno accepted, and did not return to Hastings until 1964.

The Hastings community of teachers and students will profoundly miss the continued association of this good and great man of the law. It was an honor to have had him as a teacher and associate for the two periods, each of which was too short. We hope that he and the beloved Mrs. Harno will attain improved health and many years of contentment. No one could better deserve such years.

J. WARREN MADDEN