

Following is Dean Kimball's report to the alumni on the crisis in the Law School. It is of general interest to all who are interested in the Law School and its future.

REPORT TO ALUMNI

By the Dean of the
University of Wisconsin
Law School, May 1, 1971

Introduction

Previous reports to you have usually been optimistic in tone, or else routine reporting of facts about the school. Today we are faced with problems of great magnitude, and I propose to present the facts about the "crisis" as accurately as I can in brief compass.

The origins lie in the late 1950's and 1960's, when higher education was enjoying favor in the State Capitols, in Washington and with the foundations. But enhanced expenditures went mostly into the sciences and law schools got relatively little of it. One reason was that the increasing enrollments were in other fields, not in law. Our enrollment in 1958 was 494, in 1968 only 587, an increase of about 19% in the decade.

The turn into the 1970's brought changes: the downturn in the economy, the ending of student pressures at the freshman level, disenchantment with the universities, and austerity on the campuses. The budget squeeze finds the universities with heavy commitments to enlarged programs built in better days, from which it is hard to disengage. Now it is the law schools' turn to have exploding enrollments, unfortunately absent the affluent circumstances of the 1960's.

Law schools start from a very low base. They have always been under-budgeted. Long ago we were caught in a pattern of cheap, mass-production education, even though we are training students at the graduate level for the most intellectually de-

manding of the professions, whose complexities increase daily. The basic budget figures tell the story best. In the state's budgeting process for Madison, the following figures are currently used: freshmen and sophomores, \$808; juniors and seniors, \$1,249; master's candidates, \$2,414; Ph.D. candidates, \$2,114; law students, \$1,423; and medical students, \$7,131. Law students average 15 class hours, master's candidates 12, and Ph.D. candidates 7. On a per credit basis, law students are \$95; master's candidates, \$201; and Ph.D. candidates, \$302. At current tuition rates, resident law students pay 42% of the amount the process allows for them, non-resident law students, 149%; master's candidates, 24% and 88% of tuition, and doctoral candidates 28% and 100%. Tuition of law students generates about 60% of the total direct budget of the law school. I trust no one is surprised when I express a feeling that the law school has been systematically short-changed.

I have no personal devils and do not blame any person, except perhaps ourselves. We have been poor advocates. Specifically, I attach no blame to the Madison campus administration which has during my tenure been sympathetic and helpful, though limited in what it can do. Once a unit is in a pattern of cheap education it is hard to break out of it, because the historical costs, whether inadequate or excessive, are built as a base into the whole budgeting process.

The Enrollment Pressure

We had 587 fulltime law students in fall of 1968, 654 in 1969 and 771 in 1970. In addition to regular law students we have traditionally opened law classes to particularly qualified students — usually candidates for graduate degrees in other parts of the University — whose areas of special interest relate to the law courses they wish to take. These days the number of such non-law students in one or more law courses runs to perhaps 50 each semester.

When the new Law Building went through its planning stages in the 1950's, a study of long term patterns indicated that population growth, law school enrollments and the size of the practicing bar all followed more or less the same rate patterns. This suggested that future legal education needs of the State could be estimated perhaps as well from projections of general population growth as from any other factors. Thus relying on the anticipated growth of Wisconsin's population, it was assumed that a Law Building

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