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A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR R. DALE SWIHART

WILLIAM H. DANFORTH*

I have admired Professor Dale Swihart for a quarter of a century and during those years have had the privilege of watching him make special and unique contributions to Washington University. He has been active in faculty governance and committed to its effective functioning. Fortunately for all, he was called upon to play leading roles in the Faculty Senate and the Senate Council, the latter being the elected executive body of the faculty of Washington University. He was also a most active member of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). In those roles, he profoundly influenced the University.

The first thing that I noticed about Dale Swihart was the quality of his intellect. He articulates issues, no matter how complex, in a clear and concise fashion so that others could understand and, since he was a persuasive lawyer, usually come to the same conclusion that he did. "Persuasion" may not be the exact word, for it was not that he overpowered those who thought differently. On the contrary, he showed great respect for the opinions of others, but once he had expressed himself with insight, logic and consistency, the rest of us tended to come to the simple conclusion that Dale was right.

Dale was also able quickly to grasp the direction of the thinking of others and with insight point out other interpretations or conclusions that the speaker had not thought to draw. He made meetings of the Senate council interesting and stimulating. After seeing his performance, it was easy to understand why he had a reputation of being a great law school teacher.

Dale led in the development of Washington University's governing document on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure. To that task, he brought his clarity of thought and expression, his respect for the University and his understanding of the practicalities of running any institution. Thanks in large part to Dale, Washington University has today a superb governing instrument that has now served us well for nearly two decades.

I should like to add that, with Professor Swihart's active participation, the AAUP has been a great strength to Washington University. It has stood firmly for academic freedom, has promoted effective faculty governance, and has dealt humanely and sensitively with the many individuals who have had problems in their departments, in their schools, or with the functioning of the

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University. For all of those services, I am grateful to Dale and his colleagues. It is hard to overestimate their contributions.

Others can testify from more experience than I to the effectiveness of his teaching and to his professional and scholarly work. I have dealt mainly with Professor Dale Swihart university citizen of excellence. Washington University with its traditions preserved, elaborated and enhanced stands as testimony to his years of effective and dedicated service to his institution.