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DEAN ROGER C. CRAMTON

Norval Morris†

There is no conflict between law schools in my singing a paeon of praise to Roger Cramton's deanship of Cornell Law School; after all, we made him. Dean Cramton is a graduate of this law school of whom we are, in our usual reticent and self-effacing way, loudly and inordinately proud.

Deaning has its pains, but there are deep pleasures too. None, I assume, more than the sense of having contributed to the growing strength and lasting vitality of the institution one serves. By this sound measure, Roger Cramton must be deeply satisfied in his decanal experience at Cornell—and Cornell in him.

By all the outward and visible measures, Cornell Law School has progressed greatly in the period between 1973 and 1980 that Roger Cramton served as dean. The library has grown substantially, student recruitment and placement improved by all competitive comparisons, the alumni generously support the Cornell Law fund in excess of half a million dollars a year, faculty recruitment proves effectively competitive with other law schools, and with 60% of her students coming from out-of-state, Cornell Law School clearly occupies a position in the front rank of American law schools. Of course, all this is not to be attributed to Roger Cramton but what may fairly be said is that he has provided stylish, insightful, and vigorous leadership to what was already, when he assumed the dean's duties, a leading prestigious law school with a fine scholarly heritage.

To prepare myself to draft these critical notes on a departing dean, returning to the joys of professorial collegueship, I read through copies of the *Cornell Law Forum* for the period of Cramton's deanship. They are graceful documents, liberally sprinkled with portraits of Cornell's highly photogenic dean, but revealing also his remarkable range of contributions to legal education, to scholarship, and to the legal profession. Dean Cramton's work as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation; his service on the Commission on Revision of Federal Court Appellate System; his diversity of duties for the American

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Law Institute, the American Bar Association, and the Association of American Law Schools is a catalogue of astonishing energy and substantial achievement. During his period as Dean at Cornell he emerged as a major spokesman for the legal education community in this country and, in particular, for the ethical responsibilities and professional skills of the lawyer and for the profession's obligation to develop, in alliance with the federal government, an effective system of civil legal aid for the indigent. These duties outside Ithaca have taken him each year across the face of the land from Alaska to Florida, with, perhaps, a particular penchant for Miami in the winter.

There is little more that I should properly say about Cramton and his service as Dean of the Cornell Law School. The school is fortunate in the continuing relationship he proposes with Cornell. His deanship brought great credit to Cornell, to Roger, and to all of us who take pride in the improving quality of legal education. There is no doubt that we produce fine graduates from the University of Chicago Law School.