

## DAVID F. CAVERS HONORED\*

David Farquhar Cavers, we honor you today as a scholar of great distinction and as a leader of modern legal education who ranks among the most influential of American teachers of twentieth-century law. For more than half a century, you have been disclosing fresh insights into vexing legal problems and forging the analytical tools to facilitate their resolution. You have left an indelible mark both on the law and on those who study and practice it.

As a young teacher, you came to the fledgling School of Law of Duke University, where you helped to chart the course that has since brought the school to the preeminence it now enjoys. Perhaps your most signal contribution to Duke was your conception, inauguration, and early guidance and development of *Law and Contemporary Problems*, a unique and valuable journal that has focused and brought to bear on a series of legal problems of current urgency the combined learning of a wide range of other academic disciplines. This most prestigious publication of the University is an impressive monument to your clear vision, your sound planning, and your dedicated administration.

As a scholar, your writing has touched upon and significantly shaped the regulation of business, the control of atomic power, and above all the conflict of laws, where your seminal work has come to be internationally recognized as having signaled the revolution that ushered in a new and more useful way of thinking about legal problems in this area.

When you returned, after a tour of distinguished wartime government service, to your alma mater, you became the principal architect of its program in International Legal Studies, under the aegis of which the intellectual resources of the Harvard Law School were put at the disposal of nations the world over. Accordingly, it was natural that you became the leading interpreter of American legal education abroad whose name and work have long been well known and regarded on the international scene.

Your admirable intellectual accomplishments express the moral and emotional impulses of a generous, patient, gentle humanitarian for whom law is the most rational and effective way of alleviating some of the agonies of our disturbed and disturbing world. In the course of your persistent, quiet, and self-effacing labors to improve the law and legal education, you have instilled

---

Copyright © 1988 by Law and Contemporary Problems

\* On Sunday, May 6, 1979, at its annual commencement exercises, Duke University conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws on David F. Cavers, Professor Emeritus of Law at Harvard University, who was one of the founding fathers of the modern-day law school. In the accompanying citation, President Terry Sanford (presently a United States Senator for the State of North Carolina) summarized the great contributions made by Professor Cavers, not only to the Law School, but to the world of legal scholarship. See *The Duke Docket*, at 3, col. 1 (1979) (Vol. 1, No. 2).

in students, colleagues, and countless others warm affection and deep respect for the brilliance of your work and the integrity of your life. We honor you as one who has shown us the way of the learned and the upright.