Howard Merrill Gifft, Professor of Civil Engineering at Cornell University, and Dean-elect of the University Faculty, died unexpectedly on December 20, 1956, at his home in Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, New York. His death brought to an end a promising and productive career in the teaching and practice of Sanitary Engineering.

Professor Gifft was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, on June 19, 1908. A graduate of the Boone, Iowa, High School, he entered Iowa State College where he distinguished himself as a student leader and was awarded the degree of B. S. in Civil Engineering in June 1932. After spending six years with the Iowa State Conservation Commission he returned to Iowa State College as a graduate student and instructor in Civil Engineering. He was awarded the degree of Master of Science in Sanitary Engineering and the professional degree of Civil Engineer in 1941.

In September of 1941 he joined the staff of the School of Civil Engineering at Cornell as Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering. Upon the retirement of Professor C. L. Walker, he became Head of the Sanitary Engineering Department. His promotion to the rank of Associate Professor came in 1944, and to Professor in 1948. Professor Gifft served as Assistant to the Acting Director of the School of Civil Engineering during most of 1948.

Much of his time was devoted to the improvement of the curriculum of both the School and College through his membership on many committees. Perhaps his greatest service was on the Civil Engineering School Executive Committee and the Graduate Committees of both the Engineering College and the Civil Engineering School.

Professor Gifft was an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He was also a member of the American Society for Engineering Education and the American Water Works Association. He was a Licensed Professional Engineer of the State of New York as well as the State of Iowa, and broadened his knowledge of civil engineering with a considerable amount of consulting. Professor Gifft was a member of Sigma Xi and Chi Epsilon. His fraternal affiliation was with Kappa Sigma.

Professor Gifft was highly regarded and well liked by his colleagues and students, being held in high esteem by all those who knew him for his unfailing kindness, thoughtfulness, and warmth. He possessed a delightful sense of quiet humor.

At the time of his death he had just been appointed Dean of the University Faculty by the Cornell Board of Trustees. His clear, practical point of view will be sorely missed by the University Community.
Professor Gifft is survived by his wife, Helen Hager Gifft, and their two children, Sarah Ellen Gifft Korf and Thomas Hager Gifft.

His loss is felt not only at Cornell but wherever people knew him and worked with him.

*Marvin Bogema, Carl Crandall, H. T. Jenkins*