

M. Lovell Hulse

October 21, 1895 — November 13, 1968

Emeritus Professor Melvin Lovell Hulse was born at Naples, New York, on October 21, 1895, the son of Arville and Harriet C. Hulse. He received his elementary education in Canandaigua and was graduated from the Victor, New York, high school in 1912. Colgate University awarded him the A.B. degree in 1917 with a major in mathematics. He enlisted in the United States Army in September 1917, became a second lieutenant in the Quartermaster's Corps, and participated in the St. Mihiel and Meuse Argonne offensives. He served in the American Expeditionary Force abroad until August 1919.

After returning to the United States, he engaged in business and farming for some years before beginning his career in education. From 1925 to 1928 he taught mathematics at the Centenary Collegiate Institute in New Jersey. As a teacher there he began his graduate study in education at the Cornell University Summer Session in 1926, and he was awarded the M.A. degree in February 1929. Appointed an instructor in Education at Cornell that year, he continued to work on his doctorate which was awarded in 1934. He was then appointed assistant professor of Education. He was promoted to an associate professorship in 1941 and to a professorship in 1949.

Professor Hulse's great administrative and executive abilities were demonstrated and recognized early in his career at Cornell. From 1932 to 1946 he was chairman of the committee on teacher training in the College of Arts and Sciences, and chairman of the Bureau of Educational Service (teacher placement). From 1930 to 1945 he was secretary of the School of Education. In 1944-45 he was assistant director of the Summer Session, and in 1946, acting director. He was appointed assistant dean and secretary of the College in 1946, and in 1948 he was appointed associate dean, a position he held until his retirement in 1963. From July 1, 1951, to February 1, 1952, he served as acting dean of the College. As emeritus professor he was appointed a part-time consultant to the College for 1963-64. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and of Kappa Phi Kappa. As a scholar he contributed over the years various articles to professional journals.

Professor Hulse married Miss Marian Patterson of Hamilton, New York, in 1918. Following her death in 1953, he married Miss Kathryn Ranck of Ithaca in 1954, who survives him.

In the early years of his career at Cornell, Professor Hulse made his greatest contribution to the College of Arts and Sciences in its teacher training program, which, under his guidance and influence, developed for perhaps the only period in the history of the College into a sound and effective instrument for the preparation of secondary school

teachers. He taught successful courses in methods of teaching, but perhaps more important was his supervision of practice teaching where his wisdom, experience, and insight into character and personality were best brought to bear upon the problems of the apprentice teacher. To this day many a teacher recalls gratefully the kindly, helpful criticism and advice he received from Lovell Hulse.

When, at the close of World War II, University policies with regard to teacher training changed, and the program was transferred from the Arts College; Professor Hulse's talents were henceforth concentrated upon the many problems of the postwar college.

In a time of both expansion and change in the College, Lovell Hulse was a strong force for continuity, consistency, and integrity. It was his role as secretary of the College and secretary of the faculty not just to record the decisions of the faculty (and its standing Committees on Educational Policy and Academic Records), but to serve as its active institutional memory. It was not enough simply to know the exact phrasing of a piece of faculty legislation; he maintained a thoughtful concern for the aims which had originally prompted it and for the interlocking considerations which had usually given it final shape in faculty discussion. This role as the memory of the faculty naturally merged with a conscientious effort to see that the expressed intentions of the faculty were carried out and that its earlier decisions were not forgotten or overlooked as new concerns arose. In this role he had sometimes to remind the faculty of the implications of past decisions and to propose that earlier and later decisions be reconciled in a consistent policy.

From his scrutiny of student records and student performance, and from his overall view of course offerings and course enrollments, he was usually the first to see what effect any newly instituted plan, program, or regulation was having. From his long experience with these matters, and from his alert sense of human beings, he developed an intuition of the probable reaction of both faculty and students to any new proposal. To the succession of five deans of the College during his term of office, he was a generous friend and wise counselor who often bore significant responsibility for whatever successes they achieved. The College of Arts and Sciences, for its great postwar improvement in quality and standing, will long be indebted to Lovell Hulse. His many friends among the faculty and the alumni will not soon forget him.

G. Ferris Cronkhite, Paul M. O'Leary, Francis E. Mineka