

## David T. Cattell

David Cattell's retirement from UCLA's department of political science in 1988, after a service of 36 years, most likely attracted little attention on campus, except from a handful of his close friends. This was because David was one of the most fiercely private persons I have known. Unlike many of his colleagues, he was not prone to engage in lengthy gossip sessions in the faculty center. He was also fiercely independent, as witnessed during his progressive illness when he refused his friends' help until he no longer could stand up and walk, and had to use a wheelchair. David's independence, his penchant for privacy, and his inability or unwillingness to suffer fools gladly were further fueled by a certain shyness many who first met him took for hostility or indifference. This was a pity since the few people he held as close friends knew David truly to be a uniquely gifted person.

David was born in 1923 in Hinsdale, Illinois. He entered Amherst in 1941 but, like many of his generation, quit college and joined what was then called the U.S. Army Air Corps. In 1943 he was posted to the Fukien Province in China, where for the next three years he was in command of a weather reconnaissance base. He returned to Amherst in 1946 and graduated *cum laude* the following year with a B.A. in history.

In 1947 David made a decision that was to determine his academic and scholarly career for the next forty years. He enrolled at the newly established Russian Institute at Columbia University, which pioneered a new subfield in political science known as Soviet studies and which became a breeding ground for several generations of specialists in Soviet/Russian area studies. David caught the eye of Philip Mosely, director of the Institute and one of the early giants in the profession, who agreed to sponsor his doctoral dissertation.

The dissertation, *Communism and*

*the Spanish Civil War* (1953), published in 1955 by the University of California Press, together with its companion volume, *Soviet Diplomacy and the Spanish Civil War* (University of California Press, 1957), turned out to be David's most significant scholarly accomplishments. Based on extensive archival research in England, Holland, and Spain, both books became minor classics and obligatory reading for graduate students and fellow scholars. Translated into Italian, they were reprinted by the Johnson Reprint Corporation in 1969.

David joined UCLA's department of political science in 1952 as an instructor, reaching the rank of full professor in 1966. He soon developed into one of the department's most effective undergraduate and graduate teachers, as testified by unsolicited evaluations. His graduate students, especially, commented favorably on his commitment to excellence, the time he devoted to advising, and his insistence on receiving students' best work. Many of the Ph.D. candidates he sponsored went on to distinguished careers, like Professor Edward Gonzalez, who retired in 1994 after teaching for 28 years at UCLA. David also taught as an exchange professor in Leningrad (1966), Kampala, Uganda (1967), and Rio de Janeiro (1970).

From the outset, David devoted much effort and energy to university affairs, at both the campus and state levels. The highly laudatory letters from the President's Office in Berkeley and from chairmen of various Academic Senate committees at UCLA are among the most impressive testimonies to David's incessant efforts to improve academic self-governance throughout the system.

Not surprisingly, David's commitment to teaching and his university and community service took a rather heavy toll on his research. Nonetheless, he remained in the mainstream of Soviet studies. In the late 1960s he began to focus on the critical issues of Soviet housing and urban

affairs, and in 1968 he published *Leningrad: A Case Study of Soviet Urban Government* (Praeger), which became a model for studies of its kind. He followed this with a series of articles on various aspects of Soviet housing policies. His interest in teaching was reflected in the publication of *Comparative Politics: Institutions, Behavior and Development* (Mayfield, 1978), coauthored with Richard Sisson. Parkinson's disease, which began to affect him in the early 1980s, essentially spelled the end of his research. Still, he continued as editor of the well-known quarterly *Studies in Comparative Communism*, a position he had to relinquish for health reasons in 1990.

The above summary suffices to paint the picture of a devoted teacher, energetic Academic Senate committeeman, and a diligent researcher, but it says little of David as a highly cultured member of the UCLA community. As noted, this side of his character was readily apparent only to his close friends.

What struck most of us was his generosity, which manifested itself in many ways: helping and advising his students, welcoming new faculty members, and giving much of himself to journal editing even when the state of his health made the latter most onerous. David was instrumental in bringing me to UCLA 35 years ago and in helping my family and me to settle down and feel at home. His last act of generosity took the form of a sizable grant to the political science department, which allowed it to establish a research fund for the junior faculty.

But there was more. For his intimate friends, David was, above all, a true gourmet—an excellent cook who delighted in preparing elaborate dishes from all over the world. Dinners at the Cattells' were true feasts, greatly enjoyed by those lucky enough to be invited. The dinners were always accompanied by excellent vintage wines, as David was proud of maintaining a small but

select cellar in his house in Pacific Palisades.

In addition to his culinary prowess, David had an eye for artistic excellence and his house contained many fine works of art, which he gladly displayed to his friends. By the time of his death, the collection, which he bequeathed to the UCLA Armand Hammer museum, proved much more valuable than most of us would have expected.

Most of all, David will be fondly remembered by members of the Political Science Poker Group. For longer than we can recall, every first Thursday of each month seven of us would assemble—first in David's house in Pacific Palisades, then in his condominium in Santa Monica—to play poker, drink beer, eat cold cuts, and gossip. Over the years, the membership of the group varied: some of its members died, some retired, others moved away. Yet, new members were recruited and the group persisted until it could justly be called the longest floating poker game in Southern California—thanks, mostly, to David's hospitality.

David died in his sleep in San Jose on July 10, 1998, due to complications from Parkinson's Disease. He is survived by a daughter, Jody, a son, Herbert, a sister, Ann Johnson, and his friends. All of who will miss him greatly.

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### **Cornelius Philip Cotter**

Cornelius P. Cotter, my husband, colleague, and friend of 33 years, died on July 12, 1999, of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. After retiring from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in 1989, he lived in Atascadero, California, where, at the time of his passing, he was working on a book on presidents and their national party organizations.

Neil was born into a political family on March 18, 1924, in New York City. His parents were reform Democrats who spent most evenings at precinct headquarters. As a child, Neil rode with Mayor LaGuardia on a fire truck in city parades. Later, as

a young political scientist, he noticed the large majority of Democrats in our discipline and perversely decided to balance the scales by joining the (liberal wing of the) Republican party.

His independent and responsible nature was forged during his impoverished childhood. He was a Fresh Air Fund child, sent from a city tenement to a New Jersey farm for several summers, where he established his preference for rural over urban society. During the winter months, he helped provide food and heat for the family by pulling "flat chickens" from their cages and cutting planks from the nearby wharves and, later, by biking around Manhattan for Western Union. His intellectual interests developed early; he began building a library of classics before his teens. He did not finish high school but took night courses in typing and shorthand.

Like his Irish father, he held an AFL Carpenter's Union card. While working on the docks in a war industry, Neil was injured when a pile-driver operator dropped a pile on him, and he spent a year (reading) in a hospital (under workmen's compensation) while his leg and back healed. He left his crutch behind to enlist in the Navy in 1943, was accepted as a Seabee, and served in the Pacific for the rest of World War II, primarily on Johnson Island. Because very few Seabees could take dictation, he was assigned to manage records of military trials.

In 1946, finding himself discharged and in California, Neil took the Stanford University admission tests and used the GI Bill and jobs with the college veterans and Annual Reviews offices to fund his pursuit of an A.B., which he received in 1949. His mentor was Charles Fairman, who guided him to graduate work at Harvard University where he took an M.P.A. (1951) and a Ph.D. (1953). To support his family while in graduate school he accepted a position as business manager of a new summer tent theatre called *Musie Circus* that operated out of Lambertville, New Jersey. When he was offered the Sheldon Traveling Fellowship for 1951–52, he had to make a decision between an academic ca-

reer and a partnership in the theatre business. Neil chose to go to London where he headquartered at the School of Economics while collecting data for his dissertation on wartime emergency powers. He reported his research in the *Stanford Law Review* in 1953; the article was reprinted in U.S. Senate hearings in 1973.

In 1952–53 he was an instructor at Columbia University. The Stanford political science department invited him back in 1953 as assistant professor and promoted him to associate professor in 1956. His textbook, *Government and Private Enterprise* (1960), which he developed for his course on national regulatory agencies, has enduring value. He received a grant from the Fund for the Republic in 1954 that produced articles (with J. Malcolm Smith) in the three regional journals on executive accountability and a book, *Powers of the President During Crisis*, in 1960, which was reissued in 1972. Atherton Press invited Neil in 1960 to be series editor for books on public policy; five books appeared between 1962 and 1964 on reapportionment, foreign trade, atomic power, the Supreme Court, and administrative control.

Neil also began his long-term association with the Republican party while at Stanford. He served the party by visiting county party groups throughout California and evaluating potential candidates for state offices. This concern with practical politics led Neil to coedit a book with Leonard Freedman titled *Issues of the Sixties* (1961). In 1959 he was named a faculty fellow of the Republican National Committee under the auspices of the National Center for Education in Politics (NCEP). He received a Stern Family Fund grant to write, with Bernard C. Hennessy, who was the fellow at the Democratic National Committee, *Politics without Power* (1964). This book offered the first detailed description of national committee operations and became required for students of *American politics*. The following year, Neil was appointed assistant to the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Meade Alcorn, and his successor, Thruston Morton