

DOCTOR OF ECONOMICS 'HONORIS CAUSA'

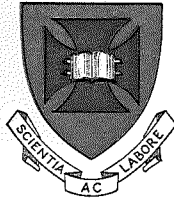
BRUCE RODDA WILLIAMS

"MR CHANCELLOR,

IT GIVES ME VERY GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT TO YOU AS AN HONORARY GRADUAND, SIR BRUCE WILLIAMS. AS WITH YOU, SIR, THE SATISFACTION RELATES TO CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CANDIDATE AND THEREFORE DIRECT EXPERIENCE OF HIS QUALITY WHICH SPEECH AND WRITING CAN ONLY DESCRIBE.

LIKE THE LAW, ECONOMICS HAS HAD ITS DETRACTORS AND MANY WITTISMS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO IT. ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN I SUPPOSE, ATTRIBUTED TO GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, IS THAT IF ALL ECONOMISTS WERE LAID END TO END, THEY WOULD NOT REACH A CONCLUSION. OVER A HUNDRED YEARS EARLIER EDMUND BURKE SAID "THE AGE OF CHIVALRY HAS GONE. THAT OF SOPHISTERS, ECONOMISTS AND CALCULATORS HAS SUCCEEDED; AND THE GLORY OF EUROPE IS EXTINGUISHED FOREVER".

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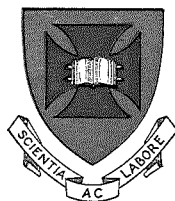


SIR BRUCE RODDA WILLIAMS (contd)

WHETHER THERE IS ANY TRUTH IN THESE REMARKS IS NOT RELEVANT TONIGHT. I WOULD TAKE TWO OTHER TEXTS. JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES SAID THAT THE IDEAS OF ECONOMISTS AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHERS, BOTH WHEN THEY ARE RIGHT AND WHEN THEY ARE WRONG, ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN IS COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD. INDEED THE WORLD IS RULED BY LITTLE ELSE. IN A DIFFERENT VEIN MARK TWAIN ONCE SAID THAT WHILE SOUP AND EDUCATION ARE NOT AS SUDDEN AS A MASSACRE THEY ARE MORE DEADLY IN THE LONG RUN. IF ONE MIXES THE INGREDIENTS THEN OF ECONOMICS AND EDUCATION, AND PLACES THE BREW IN THE WARM SEAT OF A VICE-CHANCELLORY, ALL KINDS OF FERMENT BECOME POSSIBLE.

BRUCE WILLIAMS WAS BORN IN WARRAGUL, VICTORIA AND EDUCATED AT WESLEY COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE WHERE HE TOOK HIS B.A. DEGREE. HE SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK AN M.A. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE AND ALSO HOLDS A MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER. HIS FIRST ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT WAS AS LECTURER IN ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR HE MOVED TO THE QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST AS SENIOR LECTURER. IN 1950 HE WAS APPOINTED FOUNDATION PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KEELE WHERE HE STAYED UNTIL 1959 PLAYING HIS PART IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW APPROACH TO UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE AND STYLE. HE THEN ACCEPTED APPOINTMENT AS PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL 1967.

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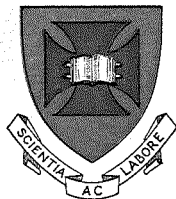


SIR BRUCE RODDA WILLIAMS (contd)

DURING HIS KEELE PERIOD HE WAS EDITOR OF THE SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW WHILE AT MANCHESTER HE BEGAN TO PLAY AN INCREASING ROLE AS AN ECONOMIC CONSULTANT TO GOVERNMENT IN THE AREAS OF PRICES AND INCOMES, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

SIR BRUCE HAS BEEN VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY SINCE 1967, THE FOURTH VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SINCE ITS CONSTITUTION WAS REVISED IN 1924. HE IS ONE OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN VICE-CHANCELLORS' COMMITTEE AND A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO IT. WHILE CHAIRMAN OF THE AVCC IN 1972-74 HE UNDERTOOK SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT WHICH LED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM OF SUPPLEMENTATION WHICH HAS PROTECTED UNIVERSITY FINANCES DURING THE INFLATIONARY YEARS OF THE LATER 1970'S. MORE RECENTLY HIS ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION AND TRAINING, WHICH LED TO THE PUBLICATION OF A MAJOR REPORT LAST YEAR, HAS TRANSLATED HIM FROM BEING A WELL-KNOWN UNIVERSITY FIGURE INTO AN ALMOST HONOURABLE MAN.

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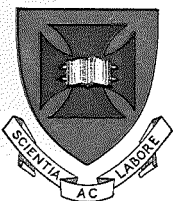


SIR BRUCE RODDA WILLIAMS (contd)

PROFESSOR WILLIAMS IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CANCER COUNCIL AND A MEMBER OF THE RESERVE BANK BOARD SINCE 1969. FOR HIS SERVICES TO EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT HE WAS MADE KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS OF 1980.

DESPITE HIS COMMITMENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC LIFE PROFESSOR WILLIAMS HAS MAINTAINED A WARM CLOSE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP, SO MUCH SO THAT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS KNIGHTHOOD HIS DAUGHTERS ERICA AND HELEN WHO WHEN SMALL CHILDREN, USED TO BE READ THE VERSE OF A.A. MILNE, DECIDED TO CHANGE THE POEM ABOUT THE INFAMOUS SIR BRIAN BOTANY TO REFLECT SOME OF PROFESSOR WILLIAMS' EXPERIENCES AS VICE-CHANCELLOR. THE POEM AS PUBLISHED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NEWS WAS I BELIEVED AN EXPURGATED VERSION AND I WILL ONLY CONTRIBUTE THE FIRST STANZA THIS EVENING.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



SIR BRUCE RODDA WILLIAMS (contd)

BAD SIR BRUCE WILLIAMS

SIR BRUCE HAD A WEIGHTY GOWN WITH MUCH GOLD LACE ON,
HE WENT AMONG THE STUDENTS AND HE BLIPPED THEM ON THE HEAD.
ON WEDNESDAY AND ON SATURDAY, BUT MOSTLY ON THE LATTER DAY,
HE KNOCKED AT ALL THE COLLEGES, AND THIS IS WHAT HE SAID:

'I AM SIR BRUCE!' (TING-LING)

'I AM SIR BRUCE!' (RAT-TAT)

'I AM SIR BRUCE, IMMUNE TO ABUSE -

'TAKE THAT! - AND THAT! - AND THAT!'

IN SUMMARY, PROFESSOR WILLIAMS IS AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED
EXPERT IN ECONOMICS, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION. HE WILL, WE REGRET,
BE LEAVING HIS POSITION AS VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NEXT YEAR TO RETURN TO THE UNITED KINGDOM IN
ORDER TO UNDERTAKE POLICY RESEARCH IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

MR CHANCELLOR, I PRESENT TO YOU BRUCE RODDA WILLIAMS, KNIGHT
COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, MASTER OF ARTS (ADELAIDE)
MASTER OF ARTS AND ECONOMICS (MANCHESTER) HONORARY DOCTOR OF LETTERS
(KEELE) AND A FELLOW OF THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES,
FOR ADMISSION TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF ECONOMICS 'HONORIS CAUSA'."