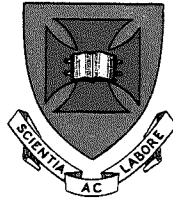


# UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



## RONALD CECIL GATES

"MR. CHANCELLOR,

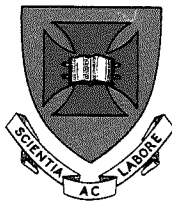
IT WAS WITH CONSIDERABLE SADNESS ON OUR PART THAT WE SAID GOODBYE TO RONALD GATES IN DECEMBER, 1977, RECOGNISING, A LITTLE GRUDGINGLY PERHAPS, THAT OUR LOSS OF A SCHOLAR/ADMINISTRATOR, A KIND OF LATTERDAY SIR THOMAS MORE, CONSTITUTED THE GAIN OF A SISTER UNIVERSITY ACROSS THE SOUTHERN BORDER. FOR A DECADE WE HAD BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING THIS COURTLY MAN, INCISIVE IN SPEECH, AND, BECAUSE OF HIS USE OF HALF-MOON SPECTACLES, IMPRESSIVELY WISE IN APPEARANCE, PRESIDE OVER THE AFFAIRS OF HIS DEPARTMENT, HIS FACULTY, THE PROFESSORIAL BOARD, AND SUNDRY COMMITTEES OF STATE AND NATIONAL IMPORTANCE. IT IS THE MEASURE OF OUR RESPECT FOR HIS SCHOLARLY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS, WHICH HAVE ADDED LUSTRE TO THIS UNIVERSITY, THAT WE SHOULD WISH TO HONOUR HIM BY CONFERRING UPON HIM A DOCTORATE IN ECONOMICS, THE FIRST AWARD OF ITS KIND EVER TO BE MADE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND.

RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AWARDED ON THE BASIS NOT ONLY OF UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC MERIT BUT ON THE GROUNDS OF DEMONSTRABLE QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP. THIS LATTER QUALITY WAS RECOGNISED BY HIS MENTORS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA, THIRTY YEARS AGO. AFTER COMPLETING HIS FIRST DEGREE IN COMMERCE, IN A COURSE PUNCTUATED BY MILITARY SERVICE AND PART-TIME STUDY HE PROCEEDED TO OXFORD IN 1946, RETURNING TO AUSTRALIA IN 1948. FROM 1941 TO 1952, HE HAD WORKED OFF AND ON WITH THAT STERN AND FORBIDDING TASK MASTER, THE COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, A NOT INAPPROPRIATE APPRENTICESHIP FOR A BUDDING ACADEMIC ECONOMIST.

IN 1952, HE MADE WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR HIM A DIFFICULT DECISION. HAD HE REMAINED A CIVIL SERVANT DOUBTLESS HE WOULD HAVE ACHIEVED HIGH RANK IN THE TREASURY; HE ACCEPTED, RATHER, AN APPOINTMENT AS SENIOR LECTURER IN ECONOMICS IN THE UNIVERSITY, BEING PROMOTED TO AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSORSHIP A DECADE LATER. TWICE IN THAT PERIOD HIS SCHOLARLY WORTH WAS RECOGNISED, BY THE AWARD OF A ROCKEFELLER FELLOWSHIP IN SOCIAL SCIENCES IN 1954 AND A CARNEGIE TRAVEL GRANT IN 1959.

IN 1960, HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE CHAIR OF ECONOMICS IN THIS UNIVERSITY HAVING THE DAUNTING TASK OF BUILDING UP A DISCIPLINE WHICH WAS AT THAT TIME LANGUISHING. HIS ARRIVAL COINCIDED WITH A BURGEONING OF INTEREST SHOWN BY STUDENTS IN THE SUBJECT, AT A TIME OF THIS COUNTRY'S GREATEST PERIOD OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL GROWTH. PROFESSOR GATES, AS HEAD OF DEPARTMENT AND

# UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



## RONALD CECIL GATES (cont.)

AS DEAN OF HIS FACULTY, INFUSED BOTH ENTHUSIASM AND DEPTH AND BREADTH OF SCHOLASTIC STUDY INTO A FACULTY WHICH GREW MORE RAPIDLY THAN ANY OTHER: ITS PRESENT ACADEMIC STRENGTH IS A PERMANENT TESTIMONY TO HIS ENERGY AND ABILITY.

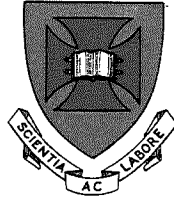
ENERGY, PERCIPIENCE AND WISDOM ARE, YOU WILL AGREE, MUCH SOUGHT AFTER CHARACTERISTICS IN MEN IN PUBLIC LIFE. WITHIN A SHORT TIME AFTER HIS ARRIVAL AT ST. LUCIA, PROFESSOR GATES' TALENTS WERE SOUGHT IN DIVERSE CAPACITIES. WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY AFTER A PERIOD OF APPRENTICESHIP ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE PROFESSORIAL BOARD, HE SERVED FIRST AS DEPUTY TO TWO PRESIDENTS AND THEN AS PRESIDENT, DURING YEARS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE WHEN THE BOARD ENCOMPASSED A WIDER RANGE OF ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION. NOTWITHSTANDING THESE ONEROUS UNIVERSITY COMMITMENTS, WHICH HE PERFORMED WITH NOTABLE DIPLOMATIC TACT AND SKILL, HE HAD THE ENERGY AND THE CAPACITY TO GIVE TIME TO PUBLIC SERVICE - MAN FOR ALL SEASONS INDEED. THE LISTING OF HIS SERVICES TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMMUNITY IS LONG AND SINGULARLY IMPRESSIVE, AND INCLUDES -

- . PRESIDENT OF THE QUEENSLAND BRANCH AND PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA;
- . PRESIDENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND;
- . MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO POVERTY;
- . CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMERS AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND;
- . MEMBER OF THE RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL RELATIONS AT A.N.U.;
- . AND, SINCE 1976, MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

AS A SCHOLAR AND AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE CONTINUING ECONOMIC DEBATE, THERE HAS FLOWED FROM HIS PEN AN IMPRESSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NINETY RESEARCH PAPERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LITERATURE OF HIS DISCIPLINE.

WERE THE BURDEN OF DUTIES NOT SUFFICIENTLY HEAVY TO BEAR, PROFESSOR GATES HAS IN RECENT YEARS ADDED TO HIS CARES BY DEVELOPING AN INTEREST, WHICH HE CALLS A HOBBY, BUT WHICH OTHERS MIGHT CALL A PENANCE, IN FARMING, EXCHANGING THE BRANDING OF FILES FOR THE BRANDING OF CATTLE, WHICH WE GUESS WILL BE PERFORMED BY HIM WITH COMPARABLE DEXTERITY.

# UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



## RONALD CECIL GATES (cont.)

DEPTH OF SCHOLARSHIP, BREADTH OF VISION, EXTRAORDINARY ADMINISTRATIVE TALENT, DIPLOMATIC SKILL, A DEEP CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE HEALTH OF UNIVERSITIES AND AN UNUSUAL ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE IN AREAS WHERE THE INTERESTS OF UNIVERSITIES AND THE COMMUNITY COMMINGLE - THESE ARE THE QUALITIES OF HIS MIND AND INTELLECT WHICH HAVE ENRICHED THE LIFE OF OUR SOCIETY.

MR. CHANCELLOR, I PRESENT TO YOU RONALD CECIL GATES, BACHELOR OF COMMERCE (TASMANIA), MASTER OF ARTS (OXFORD), FELLOW OF THE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN AUSTRALIA, HONORARY FELLOW OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN PLANNING INSTITUTE, FOR ADMISSION TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF ECONOMICS 'HONORIS CAUSA'."

The Chancellor says -

"RONALD CECIL GATES, BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AND UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, I ADMIT YOU TO THE RANK AND PRIVILEGES OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF ECONOMICS 'HONORIS CAUSA' IN THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND."