MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT W. OZANNE

Robert W. Ozanne, a professor of economics and industrial relations at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died on March 23, 2006, at age 91. He was born in Neenah, Wisconsin, and his connections to Wisconsin and to the university were unusually deep. He received from this university a B.A. degree in 1936, an M.A. in 1941, and a Ph.D. in 1954. He taught at the university's School for Workers program beginning in 1947, and he was the school's director from 1952 to 1980. From 1947 to 1949, he was an official and organizer for the Retail Clerks International Union, and he was active in the Wisconsin labor movement throughout much of his life. When hired by the Department of Economics in 1957, he was joining a department that had been, for fifty years, preeminent in the study of labor history, trade unions, and industrial relations, and it was in these fields that he made his scholarly contributions. Two of his books, Wages in Practice and Theory: McCormick and International Harvester, 1860–1960 and A Century of Labor Management Relations, dealt with this Chicago-based company, which had donated its collection of records, manuscripts, and memorabilia to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. These studies earned Bob the Thomas Newcomer Award in Business and Economic History in 1967 and 1968. A third book, The Wisconsin Labor Movement: A History, was published in 1984. In addition to his contributions to the Department of Economics and the School for Workers, he also taught in the Industrial Relations Research Institute, which was one of the nation's earliest and largest interdisciplinary graduate programs in its field. Bob retired in 1984 and remained active during his twenty-two remaining years. In one of his post-retirement activities, he worked for the Great Lakes Coalition on the regulation of water levels in Wisconsin — a contributing citizen to the end. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Frances, and by his sons Lee, Larry, Bradford and Roy, and their families.

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