

PROFESSOR DONALD COCHRANE

Professor Donald Cochrane was appointed professor of Economics at Monash on 1 March 1961 and foundation dean of the Faculty of Economics and Politics four months later, and is the longest serving of the original deans. While he would have normally ended his tenure at the end of 1982, regrettably, ill-health has brought his retirement forward by twelve months to 31 December 1981.

Prior to his appointment at Monash, Professor Cochrane was Sidney Myer Professor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne, having been appointed in 1955. Earlier he had made a significant contribution to the then infant discipline of econometrics, a contribution that lives on in undergraduate courses and texts in the form of the 'Cochrane-Orcutt Transformation'.

Professor Cochrane rapidly established a Faculty that attracted national and international attention. While his own discipline is economics, it was his plan that political science should also be taught within the Faculty so as to broaden its perspective. He has also been particularly involved in developing the Master of Administration course, the Centre of Policy Studies, the Faculty Library, and the computer facilities of the Faculty.

Within the University at large his influence has been vast. He has served on Council for thirteen years, and on its committees; he has been Acting Vice-Chancellor on many occasions and is Chairman of the Superannuation Trustees and Administrators.

Donald Cochrane has always maintained a very close connection with the outside community and thereby has strengthened the links of Monash with that community. A Commissioner of the State Bank of Victoria (previously the State Savings Bank) since 1961, he has been Chairman since 1974 and is Deputy Chairman of Tricontinental Holdings Ltd., a company associated with the Bank. He has been Chairman of the Executive Board and the Australian Council of the Australian Trade Union Training Authority since its inception in 1978. In addition he has been a member of numerous public bodies and committees of inquiry. He was awarded a C.B.E. in the New Year Honours list of 1975 for distinguished public and community service.

A listing of his activities does little to indicate the unique contribution which Donald Cochrane has made in so many fields. Those who have worked with him at Monash are acutely aware of the extraordinary energy, perception and constructive work that he has given to the University over twenty years. Even those who know him only at Professorial Board will be aware of these characteristics. At Board meetings he has never entered debate lightly. His contributions have been relevant and perceptive and have been delivered in a manner that created respect, even among those who disagreed with his view. Monash bears his stamp and will continue to do so. The Professorial Board hereby formally acknowledges its appreciation of his abundant contribution to the creation, development and status of the University.