From the Dean...

On May 2 we in the Law School took time out to observe Law Day—U.S.A., officially designated by President Eisenhower as a day set aside to pay respect to "one of the greatest heritages of American citizenship . . . . , a government by law before which all men stand as equals." A dinner in the Lawyers Club attended by students, members of the bar, and guests provided a setting for a brief speaking program.

Traditionally, May 1st is a day on which the communist world parades its military might, symbolic of rule by force. By way of contrast, in our own country the same day has been dedicated, at the instance of the American bar, to a reaffirmation of our faith in the rule of law as the fairest and best means of preserving the rights of man.

Law Day led me to undertake a little introspection, to attempt to formulate for myself why I rejoice in the fact that I am a lawyer. As a part of the dinner program, I voiced my thoughts to those present.

In view of my impending retirement from active service after some 37 years on the Law Faculty, I am going to use this final message to alumni to record my thoughts. Why do I get satisfaction out of being a lawyer? Laying aside as obvious the satisfaction that has come to me from teaching, research, consultation and other activities involving the handling of legal materials, I come down to four less obvious matters that are especially meaningful.

First of all, I like the history of the law—the sense of depth in time that one enjoys. Looking back into legal history, I find that I get satisfaction out of reading about the professional and public accomplishments of such men as Elihu Root, Charles Evans Hughes, George Wharton Pepper, and Louis Brandeis. I find this depth of history reflected in the opinions of Holmes, Brandeis and Cardozo on the United States Supreme Court, and Burch, Rosenberg, and our own Thomas McIntyre Cooley on the state Supreme Courts. Or to go back even further into history, the opinions of Marshall, Mansfield, and Coke, and the dreams of Sir Thomas More's Utopia have great appeal. I do not mean to say

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In 1947, he was appointed an Assistant Professor of Law at The University of Michigan and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1950 and to Professor in 1953. In 1954, he was named to assume additional duties as Director of Legal Research and as Chairman of the Law School's Graduate Committee.

Professor Smith is a member of the Michigan State Bar Association, the American Judicature Society and is an honorary member of Phi Delta Phi. He is also a member of the University Research Club.

He has been Chairman of the Real Property Committee of the Michigan State Bar Association and a member of that Association's Standards Committee. Professor Smith was very active in Ann Arbor's Parent-Teacher Organization, and is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Wesley Foundation. In addition, he is on the Board of Trustees and serves on the Music Committee of the Methodist Church. He is also a member of the Lions' Club. His service within the University has included the chairmanship of the Senate Advisory Committee, as well as membership on other University Senate committees.

His writings include a volume on Personal Life Insurance Trusts and he was co-editor of one of the two most widely used casebooks on Property. In 1956, he collaborated with Prof. Lewis M. Simes in a revision of The Law of Future Interests. The new four-volume edition required extensive revision and rewriting from the original publication some 20 years ago. This is the basic publication in its field.

He married Alene Mullikin of Munden, Kansas in 1939. The Smiths have two children, Stephanie, who will enter DePauw University next Fall, and Gregory, currently an eighth-grader at Tappan Junior High.

The School's new Dean lists his hobbies as golf ("a modest game even when I'm in shape"), singing ("nothing short of magnificent") and "a mild interest in philately—which consists of collecting stamps and not doing anything with them."

Two new appointments to the faculty of the Law School for the 1960-61 academic year were approved by the Regents in May. Prof. Isaak Kisch, of the Law School of the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, will be a visiting professor during the second semester. Robert L. Knauss, currently a member of a San Francisco law firm, was appointed assistant professor of law beginning in September. Professor Kisch is head of the department of comparative law, private international law and legal philosophy at the University of Amsterdam. Professor Knauss is a 1957 graduate of the Michigan Law School.