Jackson Studies
Problems of GATT

With the return of 1959 graduate John H. Jackson as a professor of law, the University of Michigan Law School has added not only a youthful, but experienced instructor, but also a man active in the rapidly expanding field of international trade and economic relations.

Jackson graduated from Princeton in 1954 after which he served for two years as a counter-intelligence officer in the United States Army in Japan. He came to Michigan following his tour of duty and, among other distinctions, was awarded the Howard B. Coblenz Prize his senior year as the member of the Michigan Law Review staff whose work during the year had been the most satisfactory.

He was associated briefly with Foley, Sammard, and Lardner in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and then went to the University of California at Berkeley as a professor of law, remaining there until he accepted the professorship at Michigan.

Therefore, the time spent in Geneva resulted in his recognition of a need for some indexing system for the voluminous number of documents the body has accumulated, in addition to his defining many of the legal problems related to GATT.

His solution to the indexing problem was a computerized system which combines the advantages of human coding by persons who have a knowledge of the field, and quick, relatively inexpensive printed output. “I estimate that this scheme is probably about 1/20th the cost of full text processing by the computer, and probably comparable or a little less costly than using humans alone without the assistance of the computer,” Jackson told those at a meeting on “Electronic Data-Processing and International Law Documentation” sponsored by the American Society of International Law in Washington, D.C. in February of 1966. “In addition the result is somewhat superior to that which a human can do without the computer.”

The results of his work with the legal problems surrounding GATT are not complete, but it is likely that a series of articles or a book will appear in the not too distant future, while he continues to explore the organization as it grows in importance. “Only about 20 countries were associated with GATT at its inception, but today it has grown to over 70 including virtually all the countries of the Western World and such Communist countries as Poland, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia,” Jackson explains. “It is of the nature of the Agreement that it should continue to grow in membership as well as in scope.”

GATT’s growth in scope comes through its periodic tariff negotiation “rounds,” of which there have been seven since its beginning, the latest being known as The Kennedy Round. It is from these that the many legal problems associated with the organization arise.

“We have to deal with questions such as sanction and dispute-settlement procedure, treaty law problems, the legality of different internal practices under GATT, and the impact of national (municipal) laws upon the agreements and vice versa.”

A result related to this GATT work has been Professor Jackson’s materials for a new course called “International Trade and Economic Relations.” It begins with a consideration of international trade contracts generally, moves to a study of government regulations of trade (tariffs and quotas), and concludes with work on international regulations of the nature of GATT, IMF, and Trade Treaty Commodity Agreements.

In addition to this winter-term course, Jackson presently is teaching Conflicts of Laws and a freshman Contracts section.

John Henry Jackson

It was during his tenure at Berkeley that Jackson developed an interest in the field of international trade and economic relations which led to his spending nine months during 1965 in Geneva at the headquarters of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). “In my studies I found that, in contrast to such institutions as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, GATT had been pretty much ignored both from a legal and functional standpoint,” Jackson notes.

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“By offering a growing number of electives, seminars, and special courses, Michigan Law School is recognizing the varied functions performed by a great law school,” states new faculty member Terrance Sandalow.

“Not only do these courses help to provide the background and to develop the technical skills so valuable in the practice of law, but they serve what I think are two other important functions,” Sandalow explained. “They help prepare students for the diverse roles which lawyers play in today’s society and, by acquainting students with the research in which the faculty is engaged, assist in bringing them within the ‘community of scholars’ heretofore reserved chiefly for the faculty members. Of course the law school is a professional school, but it also is an integral part of the intellectual community of the university. It should not only be creating craftsmen,” Sandalow feels, “but students of the legal system as well.”

Professor Sandalow was graduated from the University of Chicago undergraduate school in 1954 and from the Law School in 1957. He served as clerk for one year to Judge Sterry R. Waterman of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and then another as clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justices Harold H. Burton and,