Hessel E. Yntema Receives Honor From Luxembourg

Hessel E. Yntema has received yet another honor for distinguished service in the field of comparative law. He has been made a Commander of Luxembourg's Grand Ducal Order of the Oak Leaf for his services to the International University of Comparative Sciences, which was established in Luxembourg in 1958 to develop interest in the humanistic sciences.

Dr. Yntema, who is professor emeritus of law, serves as president of the new university's international faculty of comparative law and represents the United States on the university council. At its current session, the university's law school has an enrollment of 119 students from seven countries.

Roger C. Cramton Heads Federal Committee Staff

The Administrative Conference of the United States recently has approved a series of recommendations prepared under the supervision of Roger C. Cramton, associate professor of law. Professor Cramton is serving as staff director of the Conference's committee on rulemaking.

The 85-man conference of agency officials, private attorneys and academics was established by executive order in May 1961 to investigate procedures in federal regulatory agencies and departments and make recommendations for their improvement.

The rule-making committee, under Professor Cramton, has studied rate proceedings conducted by five regulatory agencies—the Civil Aeronautics Board, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Power Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the Department of Agriculture.

The major problems attacked included delays in the disposition of business, uneven quality of decisions, and lack of coherence and direction. The conference was established for an 18-month period and will become inoperative in December of this year.

Professor Cramton's committee has made separate studies of the individual agencies and has submitted a report to the Administrative Conference making recommendations for improvement in the conduct of federal rate proceedings.

The recommendations recently adopted call for early submission and exchange of evidence in writing, with the subsequent oral hearing, if one proves necessary, limited largely to cross-examination. It is expected that presentation of direct evidence in written form at an early date will increase the settlement of rate cases, allow more effective use of conference procedures, and simplify and shorten any subsequent oral hearing. A number of other recommendations are also designed to expedite the handling of rate cases while improving the general quality of the result.

The study undertaken by the rulemaking committee, according to Professor Cramton, is aimed at developing improved procedures for ratemaking agencies which are fitted to the special nature of each agency and its functions.

Alumni Meetings Held

Michigan Law School alumni have had special meetings in connection with two recent state bar association gatherings.

On Sept. 7, California alumni met for a luncheon at the Wilshire Terrace Restaurant in Los Angeles. A breakfast was held for alumni for Indiana at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago on Sept. 14. Associate Dean Charles W. Joiner was guest speaker at both sessions.

Assistant Dean Roy F. Proffitt spoke at a meeting of alumni from Missouri at the state bar association meeting in St. Louis in October.