
Warren L. Smith
1914–1972

IN THE AFTERNOON of April 20, 1972, Warren L. Smith suffered a massive stroke while teaching a graduate course in international finance. He never regained consciousness and passed away three days later, on Sunday, April 23, 1972.

Warren L. Smith was a man of great personal integrity and outstanding intellectual achievement. His professional life had two geographic centers, the University of Michigan and the District of Columbia. Warren's connection with the university began in 1940 when he enrolled as a twenty-five-year-old freshman. He stayed in Ann Arbor for two years, served in the Army for three years, and then returned to complete his undergraduate studies. At the age of thirty-three—an age at which my contemporaries become concerned about full professorships—Warren received his bachelor's degree and then began graduate study. Within two years he was simultaneously a graduate student and an instructor at the University of Michigan. In the latter role he ranged over some ten distinct courses, both graduate and undergraduate, in a period of three years. Despite this vast production of surplus value, he managed to write a doctoral dissertation and was awarded the Ph.D. degree in 1952. Warren's professional career thus spanned barely twenty years, and in that short time he rose to the heights of his profession. His scholarship was profound and perfectionist. His teaching was characterized by intense preparation, challenging rigor, and delightful clarity. All of these qualities of the man are evident in every paragraph of his voluminous research contributions. Looking at any book

of readings in any macro-related field of our discipline, one will find testimony to the lasting enrichment that Warren L. Smith conferred upon economic analysis.

But Warren's career at the University of Michigan was not concerned solely with economics. He was concerned with people, with the careers and problems of his colleagues, students, and more friends than most of us have acquaintances. Even his love for the Department of Economics, his professional home, was secondary to his concern for its members. In Warren's view the department's purpose was to provide a proper setting in which its faculty and student members could teach, study, learn, and be fulfilled. Those of us who knew him well in this setting will always cherish the memory of his warmth and concern.

Our country, too, will miss his counsel and wisdom. He loved his country, was vitally concerned for its welfare, and often put his own health and personal well-being to the side in order to discharge the deep responsibility he felt to contribute in whatever way he could to the public interest. To have served as a member of the Council of Economic Advisers was both the most he could do and the least he could require of himself. To be "where it was at" and to do what had to be done were the things that fired his soul and gave him his sense of personal worth.

Warren had been a valued member of the Brookings panel from its inception, and how I wish he were sitting here now. I shall always be grateful for the privilege of having sat with him.

SAUL H. HYMANS