

CHAPTER 8- Only Sixteen Percent And What Do You Get?

Yes, it was true, the first semester finally ended and we were 16 and some odd percent complete in our legal education. But what kind of time was it and what would the future look like? The experience was mixed and the future was hazy. (Funny, things haven't changed much since then.) There were several significant differences between "then" and "now" which demonstrate the progress or lack thereof that the law school has made since Fall '73. Although it doesn't seem like much, the introductory block has been shortened considerably, if not in time alone, at least in emphasis. For it took us until at least the first week of October to get all the discussions, evaluations, etc. complete before we got in step with the "traditional" courses. And of course, in light of Modern Methodology, it took some of us a lot longer to get in step, in fact, a few still march to the beat of a different drum. But the traditional courses, "Regulation of Economic Activity: Real Property Law" and "Social Decision-Making: Judicial" were necessarily shortened and it was this shortening and their strange titles that were cause for anxiety both with students and some members of the bar. While there may have been a few students who were concerned with the curriculum at this point, most of us still had great confidence in the faculty and their plans; further, our program was soon to be "blessed."

Among the early visitors to the law school was the House Committee on Higher Education in early October. They came and looked and asked questions; the rooms were clean and the students seemed high on the program. There was some concern by the representatives ~~that the students~~ about the numbers of local high school graduates, or lack thereof, in the students body, and they didn't seem to be buying an initial juggling of statistics that claimed to demonstrate "strong local ties." Undoubtedly this wouldn't be the last time the Dean would hear this tune. But all seemed to be in order and the students even said we were happy with the buildings. It was to be a school "of the people" wasn't it, and we were having a good time in the quarry, so no need to worry about anything fancier. We all concurred.

A better show was prepared for the ABA visitors in late November. This was to be the "big one" and at that time, we all wanted the accreditation. We even got time off from David's class to make extra preparation for their "impromptu" visit to one of our classes. We were urged to be brilliant, but probably weren't, at least not to their standards. But no matter, we were enthusiastic, eager, impressed with the program and faculty and, if later reports are to be believed, it was this enthusiasm of the students that figured strongly in our provisional accreditation. But who knows how those turkeys think anyway? It wasn't too many more months before that enthusiasm for the program would turn into an enthusiasm for a lynching and certainly the ABA would know nothing of that.

The semester ended with two traditional finals and Ben's epic labor and then a well catered party. As soon as the speed and beer wore off, we would be ready for a new, improved semester. Unfortunately, there were still a few jokers in the deck.