

6/20/67

Interview with Dr. Jack W. Peltason, June 19, 1967

1. What attracted you about coming to Irvine?

A combination of job and place. He was first contacted by letter from Ivan Hinderaker in January, 1963; then Dr. Hinderaker visited him in Illinois a little later in the winter; and in about April, 1963, he came out for an interview and met Dr. Aldrich.

At that time he and Dr. Hinderaker discussed the establishment of divisions and the general administrative structure. Dr. Peltason felt that the University of California has a cumbersome bureaucracy and he hoped to set up an administration which would give power to the deans. That was why the divisional deans were appointed first.

2. Did you feel a "lame duck" since you had to stay on for one year at Illinois after your appointment at UCI (1963-64)?

Dr. Hinderaker talked to me on the telephone on all major appointments, for example, Dr. Peltason read my papers.

3. Did you find the state-wide administrative regulations reasonable/ helpful, and or obstructive?

Dr. Peltason did not feel that the administrative manual was hampering. Decentralization came at the right time here. Furthermore, the UCI advisory

committee did extremely well. They would delegate authority to the chairman, who was first to talk to John Galbraith and then Dr. Tom Swedenberg.

4. How should these regulations be changed?

(Why don't we ~~w~~ skip this question.)

5. What were your impressions of serving on the committee to set up the UCI Academic Senate?

Dr. Peltason said he prepared a draft in the summer of 1965, but served only as an ex officio member after the faculty assembled and a committee was set up. Dr. Peltason feels that the^{key}/senate committees are those of budget and educational policy. He was sorry 1) that key administrators were not permitted to really serve on senate committees, for example, the budget committee; 2) in the power mechanism of a university the senate and the deans provide the main sources of power and it is the vice chancellor's office that should coordinate this power.

6. Now that we have been functioning for two years, what should we change?

It is essential that we should have done more things that we stated in the academic plan in 1964. For example, 1) separate grades from instruction; 2) have the division's "say" stronger and the department's weaker. In Dr. Peltason's opinion, the Humanities and the Physical Sciences have strongest departments; ~~XXXXX~~ Biological Sciences~~xxx~~ next, Fine Arts next, and Social

3)

Sciences last. /He feels that the budget committee and the educational policy

committee are ~~almost sovereign~~ too strong, for, he feels that the notion of

the sovereignty of the department is strong among young faculty members;

4) He feels that there should be more elected committees inside divisions.

7. In what area do you think you have had your greatest success?

Dr. Peltason felt that ~~the~~ his greatest success was helping in recruitment, and secondly in helping to plan an innovative curriculum.

8. In what areas did you feel the least successful? And why?

Dr. Peltason felt a number of the fine ideas we had in the original plan of 1964 and which we have incorporated in the catalogue/actually been carried out. For example, credit by examination. The other area was the cumbersome mechanism of the academic senate and its essential similarity to all other senates of the University of California.

9. What were your impressions of the first conference in August, 1964, from which the Irvine Plan ~~is~~ emerged?

Dr. Peltason said that Florence had taken fairly good minutes. He said he was pleased with this conference and was disappointed with our failure to implement some of the ideas.

10. What problems are unique to Irvine: a) because it is new, ⁴
^{and} b) because ~~it~~ is
a particular campus?

He discussed acute problems: the shortage of space and resources. Of course, this is a relative matter. As far as location is concerned, he felt that our location is a very distinct asset and has helped us many times in recruitment.

11. What would you do differently if you had to do it all over again?

Possibly, Dr. Peltason felt, we should ^{have} restricted our activity. We tried to do too much too soon. But then, he said, it was better to try to do too much too soon than to do too little too late.