

# Dr. John McConnell Named UNH President by Trustees

By Bob Butler and Dave Jackson

Dr. John W. McConnell has been elected 14th president of the University of New Hampshire, the Board of Trustees announced today. He will assume his duties on February 1.

Dr. McConnell leaves the position of Dean of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University, a position in which he has been serving for 3 years.

The University has been searching for a president since last December when Dr. Eldon L. Johnson resigned to become President of the Great Lakes College Association. The Selections Committee made an exhaustive study of over 120 candidates before reaching the final and unanimous decision.

Dr. McConnell has been a college teacher for 31 years and has an extensive background in sociology and economics. In addition, for the past seven years, he has served as an administrative dean. He has been a faculty member at Cornell for 16 years.

Prior to his present position, Dr. McConnell was Dean of the Cornell Graduate School for 4 years.

Among the positions he has held are Assistant Professor of Economics and Sociology at American University in Washington, D.C. from 1937-1939; Professor of Sociology at New York University from 1939-1946; and Professor of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell from 1946 to the present.

Trustee Dean Williamson of Concord, Chairman of the Selections Committee, told **The New Hampshire** that with Dr. McConnell, in addition to Executive Vice President Jere Chase, Director of University Development Albert D. Van Allen, and Treasurer Norman W. Meyers, "We will have a very effective administrative team."

Mr. Williamson said, "We are naturally pleased with the decision. This is the kind of decision we have been working for. We feel that Dr. McConnell can achieve the standards Dr. Johnson set while he was President of the University."

When contacted by **The New Hampshire**, President McConnell said that he had "no definite plans concerning educational policies and university growth."

He said, "It will first be necessary to get acquainted with the College Deans and Mr. Chase to discuss plans already established. We will work together."

Asked if he had any special message for students, Dr. McConnell said, "I would like to become acquainted with students as quickly as possible. My aim is to work with students, faculty, and administration to create the best University possible." He stressed personal associations with members of the student body.

Dr. McConnell was born in Philadelphia on October 18, 1907, and graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1925. He received his undergraduate degree from Dickinson College in 1929, and his Doctor's degree from Yale in 1937.

In addition to his career as an educator, he has been a consultant to the Tennessee Valley Authority, the U.S.A.F. Air Training Command, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

He was a Fulbright lecturer in India during 1953-54.

Dr. McConnell has been a member of the National War Labor Board, American Economic Association, the National Academy of Arbitration, and is a Fellow of the American Sociological Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Honorary society membership includes Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi, and he also has received an honorary Doctor of Science Degree from Dickinson College.

When asked why he took the job, President McConnell said, "I have always had an interest in the administration of a fairly small but important institution with both liberal and practical programs."

He also stated that he was somewhat hesitant about leaving Cornell where the School he heads has just completed an extensive building program.

In addition, Dr. McConnell commented that he "wants to make a contribution to both New Hampshire and the University of New Hampshire."

Mr. Williamson said that Dr. McConnell did not apply for the position. He stated that Dr. McConnell's name was "suggested from sources from which we sought nominees."

Regarding Executive Vice President Chase Mr.



Dr. John McConnell

no reason to believe any change will be made in Mr. Chase's position."

Dr. McConnell also expressed the belief that "Things have gone well under Chase's direction."

As an undergraduate at Dickinson College, Dr. McConnell played baseball, football, and basketball, and is very interested in sports generally.

He feels sports are a necessary part of an academic program. However, he does not feel that sports should be used as a "high-powered publicity" technique.

Dr. McConnell was first offered the position in late April, 1962. However, according to Mr. Williamson, he declined because of commitments at Cornell. Following this, the Board of Trustees was still unable to select a suitable candidate until this October when Mr. Williamson learned that Dr. McConnell might now be available.

He was again contacted, and this time he accepted the position.

Mr. Williamson said that "both Trustees and Faculty have been hoping we would come up with a man of Dr. McConnell's executive ability and background."

Dr. McConnell has been married to the former Miss Harriet Barlow for 29 years and they have five children: Janet (Mrs. John Alexander) of Helena, Montana; Kathleen, who is studying for a Ph.D. in English at Cornell; Grace, a senior at Dickinson College; Judith a freshman at Swarthmore College; and John, a junior at Trumansburg, N. Y., High School.

Among the books he has written are: "Economic Needs of Older People (with John Corson), 1946; "Economic Security: A Study of Community Needs and Resources" (with Robert F. Risley), 1951; "The Basic Teachings of the Great Economists", published in 1943 and re-issued in 1947, 1954, and again in 1960 as "Economists Past and Present," and "The Evolution of Social Classes," 1942.

In addition, he has written numerous articles for magazines and professional journals.

Dr. McConnell and his family reside in Trumansburg, N. Y., where he has been active on the School Board and as a member of the Methodist church.

The New Hampshire staff News Bureau Franklin wishes to express its appreciation to Executive Vice Heald, for their cooperation

