

Case: Its Significance in American Law and Politics was called by C. Vann Woodward 'probably the most thorough study of any Supreme Court decision undertaken.'

Born in Sterling, Illinois, near the Lincoln Highway and the first in his family ever to graduate from high school, Fehrenbacher left Cornell College in Iowa in February 1943, after completing two and a half years, to fly more than thirty combat missions over Germany as a member of the Army Air Corps. After the war, he returned to Cornell, graduated in 1946, and went on to take his doctorate from the University of Chicago. This was made possible financially by the G.I. Bill of Rights. He began his teaching career at Coe College. In 1953 he joined the history faculty at Stanford University (at a salary of \$4,500), where he served thirty-one years before his retirement in 1984. That year, he was elected to membership in AAS. Six months before his death Professor Fehrenbacher received the \$50,000 Lincoln Prize for his lifetime achievement in Civil War studies. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, with whom he collaborated on *Recollected Words of Abraham Lincoln*, a collection of 1,900 quotations attributed to Lincoln by more than 500 of his contemporaries, their two daughters, and a son.

Jay Fliegelman

RICHARD CARNEY HIGGINS

Dick Higgins represented a profile in courage. Stricken with polio at seventeen, paralyzed from the neck down, and living out of a hospital room for the remaining forty-three years of his life, he battled against incredible odds to become a budding scholar and college teacher. To read, Dick had to turn pages with a stick held between his teeth. He designed a lazy susan device on which several books could be mounted, and operated the apparatus with a small foot pedal. To write, he dictated to secretaries and stenographers, some of whom—largely student nurses—he affection-

ately called 'the group.' To get around, he had to be lifted from his bed, placed in his motorized wheelchair, and driven to his destination in a specially equipped van. To survive, he sometimes had to have a tracheotomy tube to supply air to his lungs.

In 1954, when the polio epidemic swept the area, Dick was completing his senior year at the Canterbury School in New Milford, Connecticut, where he was a football star and captain of its track team. The next year Jonas Salk developed the vaccine that stopped the spread of the dreaded disease, and Dick once told me that someone was insensitive enough to ask how he felt about coming so close to the discovery that would have changed his entire life. 'I'm not bitter,' he replied. 'Of course, you do think "Why me?"' at first, but it is fruitless to be bitter.' That was part of Dick's courage: to dismiss out of hand a question that might have given rise to self-pity.

He attended classes in a wheelchair at The College of the Holy Cross and graduated *magna cum laude* in 1961. Dick entered Clark University as a graduate student in American history in 1962, the same year I joined the faculty as director of the graduate program. In our initial interview, I was struck by his lively mind, intellectual curiosity, and the penetrating way he expressed his ideas. Although there was no question about his academic abilities, I wondered how students would react to him. My doubts were swept away when he participated in a heated discussion during the first seminar. Students quickly engaged him as an equal in the give-and-take that followed.

We soon became good friends and I visited him in his home as well as Worcester's St. Vincent's Hospital, where he lived for many years. Our long conversations focused on American history for the most part, but frequently there was a reversal of roles as the teacher learned from the student. Dick's powers of analysis were formidable, and in our informal tutorials he had much to offer.

When it came time to select a subject for his M.A. thesis, Dick's choice presented a special problem. His research had to be confined to secondary sources, given his lack of mobility. He set-

tled on Fisher Ames's outlook on international affairs from 1800 to 1808. The writings of Ames—the voice of New England Federalism—were available in printed sources with which Dick could cope. Dick concluded that there was a close symbiotic relationship between Ames's political philosophy as a Federalist and his views of America's foreign policy, and demonstrated the ways Ames's position on domestic matters informed his views on foreign affairs. He submitted a first-rate study in 1968.

On the strength of his fine thesis, I wrote letters of recommendation in his behalf to Harvard, where he was accepted into the graduate program. Dick began work on a doctoral dissertation on Paul de Rapin-Thoyras, an exiled Huguenot writer of renown, whose *Histoire d'Angleterre* was published in English between 1725 and 1731. Rapin was immensely popular in the colonies primarily because of his anti-establishment point of view. Unfortunately, Dick was never able to complete his dissertation.

Dick began his teaching career at Assumption College in 1966 and continued as a lecturer in the Clark University Evening College. His mastery of American history, catholicity of interests, and quick mind made him popular as a teacher. In the classroom once he began lecturing, students quickly learned to focus on his ability and concentrate on what he had to say.

Dick had three outstanding characteristics: his courage in coping with his situation, his capacity to inspire people, and his delightful sense of humor. Faced with living what might have been a bleak life, he showed great strength of character in enduring his illness for more than forty years. In addition to his academic pursuits, Dick would leave the hospital to attend concerts and football games. To talk with him was always an inspiring experience, primarily because of the grace he showed in the face of his handicap. His forthrightness coupled with his subtle sense of humor was well-known. An example could be seen in his M.A. thesis, when he gave his own twist to the acknowledgments customarily preceding such a work. 'While I am indebted to all my professors at Clark, I am especially grateful to Professor George Athan

Billias. . . . He first introduced me to Fisher Ames, and while I have cursed him on that score, in the end I must acknowledge my thanks for that too.'

He was born Richard Carney Higgins in Worcester on November 23, 1937, the son of the late Kenneth P. Higgins and Mary Waugh Higgins, and died on January 21, 1998, of pneumonia. Elected to membership in the Society on October 21, 1970, he attended the Society's 1973 annual meeting.

George Athan Billias

BERNARD JOSEPH FLANAGAN

The Most Reverend Bernard J. Flanagan, the first bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Norwich, Connecticut, and second bishop of Worcester, Massachusetts, died at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center on January 28, 1998, after a long illness.

Born in Proctor, Vermont, on March 31, 1908, Bernard Flanagan graduated from The College of the Holy Cross in 1928 and, upon graduation, pursued ecclesiastical studies at the North American College in Rome. He was ordained a priest in Rome on December 8, 1931. Following eight years of pastoral work in the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont, the then Father Flanagan enrolled at the Catholic University of America, where he earned a Doctor of Canon Law degree in 1943. He then returned to the Diocese of Burlington, serving as chancellor and secretary to the Bishop until 1953, when he was named bishop of the newly created Diocese of Norwich. In August 1959 he became the second bishop of Worcester and was installed by Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, in St. Paul's Cathedral on September 24, 1959.

Described by Cardinal Cushing on that occasion as 'strong and sturdy in character, kind and sympathetic in his dealings with his brother priests, understanding and tolerant in his relations with

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