

JAMES WILLIAM FULBRIGHT

James William Fulbright is one of that handful of farsighted statesmen who have probed deeply into the national policy in this century; he has been teacher and, on occasion, the conscience of the American people. Born in Missouri and reared in Arkansas, he attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and took a Law degree at George Washington University. He joined the law faculty at the University of Arkansas, and later served as its President. In 1942 he turned to politics. After a term in the House, he was elected in 1944 to the first of five terms in the United States Senate.

Many important pieces of legislation bear Senator Fulbright's name; the scholarly world recalls with gratitude the Fulbright Act of 1946. He stood strong against the witchhunting excesses of the 1950's. He is best remembered, however, as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee after 1959. A thoughtful critic in the best tradition of a number of great American dissenters, he often advocated policy changes and he opposed the overreactions of cabinet officers and Presidents in international crises. The titles of some of his books written during those years emphasize his stance and his influence: Prospects for the West, Old Myths and New Realities, The Arrogance of Power, The Crippled Giant.

For the independence, courage, and incisiveness with which Senator Fulbright attacked complex issues, for his frequent demonstrations of the values of freedom, especially of the freedom of speech, this University now honors this public philosopher and statesman.

(awarded LL.D. at May 9, 1976, Commencement)