BY WILLIAM K. CONROY

Confidence by the student in his instructor is one of the many important factors which make up the process of the study of law and its existence is as vital to the studying of law as are the lectures, the books to be used, the library work, and the many other factors which go to make up a law school and an educational process.

Education itself is not a concrete thing; it is the sum total of a variety of experiences which occur during the student's college life. Under our teaching methods, the case books, system, each case itself is a minute part of this sum total of experiences. It can be readily seen how important a healthy atmosphere is in order to provide the student with the best setting in which to undergo the educational process and to be rewarded with its fruits.

The instructor himself, is a vital and basic part of this atmosphere. The instructor's part in the creation of this atmosphere lies in whether or not he conveys to the student a sense of security or confidence in the instructor's superior knowledge and that the instructor is carrying out his role in the educational process. If this feeling is present the student can be said to have confidence in his instructor, a feeling of security in what he is taught by the instructor, and in the instructor's method or manner of teaching. (cont'd)

DEAN GEORGE S. HARRIS
PH. B., LL. B.

Dean Harris-led student, scholar, and teacher, both in the law and the classics. During his long service to our school, he has proved himself to be an able teacher, as well as a successful Dean. Under his leadership and guidance, Rutgers Law School has grown and will continue to grow because of its sound foundation. This past summer, due to ill health, Dean Harris resigned. And so it is with deep regret that we lose our Dean, but he carries away with him the deep appreciation and respect of all the students and faculty for a job well performed.

This relationship breeds other essentials, such as interest in the subject matter itself, which in turn leads to outside study or further investigation of the field which the particular subject covers, or the essential called "classroom participation." And this classroom participation shows itself in many forms; attendance, proper preparation, and the asking of pertinent questions which are very beneficial to the other students.

The presence of confidence in the instructor by the student can easily be proven in our law school. In the classroom itself this confidence is quite easily shown through the obvious student interest in the lectures, in the asking of questions and the taking of notes. With doubt this confidence can be most easily shown by mentioning what invariably happens during the ten minute "breaks" in the middle of each two hour class session. During this "break," the instructor finds himself in the midst of a group of students answering questions on the lecture of the prior hour; this quiet voluntary activity portrays the utmost of what is called student-instructor confidence.

The most vivid proof to me that this confidence exists in our school has occurred on the occasions when I have heard students, who did not particularly enjoy a particular subject, remark that the grade they received was all they deserved.
ACTG. DEAN C. WILLARD HECKEL
A. B., A. M., LL. B.

Rutgers Law School is fortunate to have as its Acting Dean, a man as proficient and honest as Dean Heckel. His educational background includes degrees from Dartmouth College, Columbia University, and our own Rutgers Law School. In 1944, after serving as an officer in the U. S. Navy, he began his teaching career at Rutgers, the law school from which he was graduated, teaching numerous courses, including Torts, Domestic Relations, and Municipal Corporations. He has continued to do so energetically and successfully in school affairs, and has the respect and admiration of all the faculty. Now, as Acting Dean, we further appreciate the fine work he is doing in helping to further build and expand Rutgers into a Law School of which any student would feel proud.

The first few months in law school are usually the busiest for the student. It is during this period that he is in the process of acquiring his confidence in his professors. These few months during which the beginning of the school’s first year is the most trying and difficult for the student. He remembers this period as one of almost utter confusion. But as soon as he acquires confidence the problems of the first few months disappear and he finds himself more fully comprehending the subject matter with greater ease. It is fortunate indeed, that this relationship exists at our law school, since it continues the rest of the school years as being similar to the first few months, readily shows the importance of “confidence” to the student.

TAKING a great responsibility and performing it well requires the ability of a capable administrator and able counselor. Acting Dean Heckel and the members of our faculty fulfill these requirements.

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