Upon inauguration as President of Rutgers University in 1959, Mason W. Gross outlined an extensive expansion program for the University. Among the goals was the construction of a new Law School and legal center in Newark, serving not only law students, but the New Jersey Bar as well. The need for such a building had become critical in view of the growing needs of legal education and the inadequacy of the present facilities to fulfill them.

The past year has witnessed the realization of this goal. In September the new building will be ready for occupancy. The long awaited Law Center has become a reality largely through Dr. Gross’ dedication to the purpose of providing the best possible facilities to both legal scholars and the Bar. Dr. Gross’ leadership and organization has been invaluable in overcoming the numerous financial and administrative problems inherent in an undertaking of such magnitude. The legal profession owes an everlasting debt of gratitude to both the University and Dr. Gross for providing it with the means with which to better serve the community.

Dean C. Willard Heckel, a dedicated and thorough teacher and an able administrator, has been one of the prime moving forces in the quest for a new law school. Through hard work and leadership he has accelerated the building of the law center in Newark. His dedication to the project of providing legal scholars in New Jersey with adequate facilities will be forever appreciated by both students and the community.

Dean Heckel, perhaps better than anyone else, is able to appreciate what a new physical plant will mean to Rutgers. Since 1940, when he received his law degree from this Law School, he has been associated with Rutgers. He has witnessed steady growth of the Law School, yet has suffered through more than twenty years of cramped quarters and inadequate facilities. In September of this year many years of frustration will end upon completion of the new building. Dean Heckel can well feel proud that Rutgers Law School has come so far since 1940.
In addition to many administrative duties Assistant Dean Allan Axelrod teaches Public Utilities, Legal Accounting, Negotiable Instruments, Creditor's Rights and Commercial Law. Although his dual role of teacher and administrator is often burdensome, Dean Axelrod maintains his wry sense of humor and compassion for the individual student's problems.

His affable and informal manner have endeared him to students, yet his clear and introspective presentations of complex problems have gained him their respect and confidence. Dean Axelrod received his B.A. from Michigan and his LL.B. from Yale. He has taught both at Rutgers and at Yale, and is an authority on commercial law.

Dean Malcolm D. Talbott is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University and received his law degree from Western Reserve University. While on leave of absence from his Ohio law firm to do some special work in New York, he consented to fill in at Rutgers in an emergency; he liked it here and decided to stay, which was indeed a stroke of luck for the law school.

Dean Talbott is the chairman of the Building and Admissions Committees and has been active with the Scholarship Committee. He is also a member of the American Bar Association’s Joint Committee on Pre-Legal Education and Admission to the Bar. He has also done an excellent job in public relations with our law school, our alumni and the public.

Those of us who have been in his classes remember his teaching us to “analyze, synthesize, relate the rules of law to the relevant issues at hand, state a legal conclusion, and don’t forget the reasoning.” But we also think of him as counselor and above all, as our friend who is constantly giving of his time and himself.