

## PROFESSOR P B A SIM

*Professor of Law 1968—; Dean of the Faculty of Law 1968-1981.*

*The following resolution was moved by the Dean, Professor R J Sutton, and passed by Faculty at its meeting of 10 April 1981:*

I would like to invite the Faculty to express its appreciation for Professor Peter Sim's twelve years of service as Dean, now that he has stepped down from that office, though happily still very much among us as a Professor and teacher. Sir, these twelve years spanned an important and eventful time, both for the University (where you served as a member of University Council, and Vice-Chairman of Senate), and for the Law Faculty.

The Law Faculty, at the beginning of your Deanship, consisted of the Dean and two full-time staff members, assisted by members of the legal profession. They taught the entire law course, to classes which were between half and a quarter the size of our classes today. In the Dean's hands lay the building of a viable law faculty. We have only to look about us to see how well the work was done. The Faculty expanded to fourteen full-time teachers, while maintaining the services of members of the legal profession. The library grew from a barely adequate collection of basic materials, to a rich research resource which, while still modest in terms of total volumes, is extremely well planned and provides a strong basis for the multifarious forms of research undertaken by faculty and students. Our quarters have moved from the genteel but cramped style of the old Registry building, to their present magnificence in the Hocken.

I know that you would be the first to pass on the credit for these, and the other good things that have come out of the last twelve years, to others who were associated with you in the task. The fact remains that they happened under your leadership; you alone know the hours of thought and anxious care you took at every step. Many an institution would have been shaken by a transformation of this magnitude, and perhaps lost sight of the basic tenets of its existence. I believe that this has not happened at Otago—that the fundamental values of professionalism in teaching and research, concern for the broader dimensions of law and legal theory, interest in the way in which the general principles of law work in practice, and above all, respect for the conscience and integrity of the individual law teacher—are as strongly held now as ever before. This is due, in no small measure, to the abilities that you brought to the office of Dean.

Twelve years is a long time in anybody's life, and twelve years as Dean must have seemed a long time indeed, as the administrative burdens increased and then accelerated, and more pressing and frequent calls were made on your known ability to handle problems with vision and judgment. As a newcomer to the Faculty who has succeeded you in office, I would like to express my personal gratitude for the welcome I received, the care and patience you extended during my period of settling in, and the quiet assurance with which you passed over the responsibilities of office late last year. Your decision to step down was, of course, made quite some time ago; as in all things, it was made and carried through in a manner which put the interests of the Faculty ahead of all personal considerations.

As a Faculty, we will, I know, wish to express our warm affection for good things shared together, our appreciation for all those efforts made on our behalf, and our hope that you have every enjoyment and satisfaction in your teaching and research, in the years which lie ahead. From this seat, which you occupied with such distinction, I move the Faculty accordingly.