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ROGER CONANT CRAMTON—
NOT AN OBITUARY

Erwin N. Griswold†

It is too soon for Roger Cramton to give up dean ing. He has
only been at the task for seven years, and we need more of him.
There is consolation, though, in the fact that we will surely get
more of him, in one capacity or another, for his talents and ener-
gies are such that he has many more important things to do.

Though I had heard about him before, particularly when he
was on the faculty at the University of Michigan Law School, my
acquaintance with Roger Cramton really began in 1970 when he
returned to Washington in the somewhat obscure but vitally im-
portant post of Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the
United States. While he held that office, I saw him on a number
of occasions, and my initial fine impression was confirmed. It was
clear that he was a very able lawyer, and also a very public-
spirited citizen.

Then, in the summer of 1972, he came to the Department of
Justice, as Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel.
That office began, a good many years ago, as Assistant Solicitor
General, and a consequence was that Roger’s office was just down
the hall from mine while I was serving as Solicitor General. It was
a relatively short association, for late in 1972 our departure was
announced by higher authority. Nevertheless, it was a fairly close
association, and I became very much aware that Roger Cramton
was a man of quality, in character, in ability, and in personality.

Roger’s departure from Washington had its constructive side,
for he soon became Dean of the Cornell Law School, where he
has served with great distinction. At the same time, however, he
has performed further outstanding public services. Perhaps the
most notable one of these was his chairmanship of the Legal Ser-
vices Corporation during the period when the Corporation was
being organized, and its first President was being selected. In ad-
dition, he was a member of the Commission on Revision of the
Federal Court Appellate System, where he helped to focus atten-
tion on an intransigent problem which will have to be resolved
some day.

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Particular reference should be made to Roger Cramton's important contributions to some of the current difficult problems of legal education. Shortly before he began his deanship at Cornell, he wrote, with Barry B. Boyer, a careful study entitled: *American Legal Education: An Agenda for Research and Reform*.¹ And very recently, he has published, with Erik M. Jensen, a thoughtful study of the problems of clinical legal education. This is *The State of Trial Advocacy and Legal Education: Three New Studies*.²

While I have known him, Roger has always led a strenuous life. His impact has been notable and substantial in the several fields in which he has worked. I am told that he is about to go off for a year of contemplation. I have no doubt that he deserves a rest, but find it hard to think that his year at the Duke University School of Law will be entirely passive.

Fortunately, we can look forward to many further contributions to the law and to legal education from Roger Cramton. As I said in the title, this is not an obituary. It is really a prologue. We remain grateful for what Roger has done in the past, and hopeful for what he will do in the years to come.

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² 30 J. LEGAL EDUC. 253 (1979).