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NEWSPAPER FELLOWSHIPS AT HARVARD ANNOUNCED

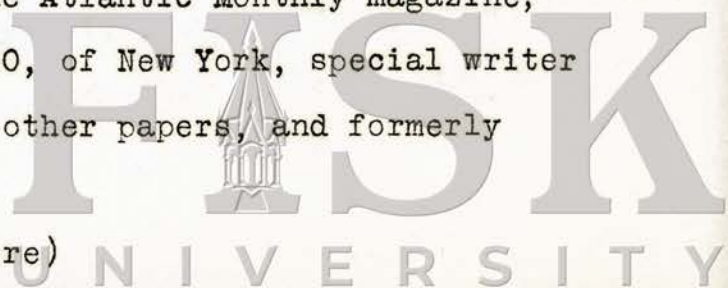
Cambridge, Mass., Jan 10 -

Fellowships enabling experienced newspapermen from all parts of the United States to study at Harvard University on leave of absence from their papers will be established under the bequest of approximately \$1,000,000 left to the university by Mrs. Agnes Wahl Nieman, widow of the founder of the Milwaukee Journal, specifically "to promote and elevate the standards of journalism in the United States."

Announcement of the plan, which has been approved by the Harvard Corporation, was made today by President James B. Conant in a report to the Harvard Board of Overseers in session at the university.

The committee named by President Conant to administer the fellowships consists of three members of the Board of Overseers: John Stewart Bryan, LL.B. Harvard '97, of Richmond, Va., Publisher of the Richmond News Leader, President of the College of William and Mary, and former President of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, Chairman; Ellery Sedgwick, A.B. Harvard '94, of Boston, Editor of the Atlantic Monthly magazine; and Walter Lippmann, A.B. Harvard '10, of New York, special writer for the New York Herald-Tribune and other papers, and formerly Editor of the New York World.

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The first fellowship holders will come to Cambridge next September. No applications will be considered until the committee makes a further announcement, within a few weeks, giving details as to the method of application, the adjustment of stipends, and the plan of study, and at no time will applications be considered without the authorization of the newspaperman's superiors, giving leave of absence, university officials said. It is hoped that most of the applicants will wish to devote an academic year, eight months, to study at the university, but applications for half an academic year will be considered.

The plan, which was decided upon only after many journalists, editors and publishers had approved the idea, is "frankly experimental," President Conant said, and will be abandoned if found to be impractical.

The fellowships are not expected to number more than twelve or fifteen in any one semester. They are designed to enable reporters, editorial writers and special writers of at least three years' experience to take any courses in any department or school at Harvard and to supplement this with private reading under faculty advisers. It is expected that at least one fellowship will be awarded to men from each of the six large sections of the country: Far West, Middle West, South West, South, Middle Atlantic and New England.

No new courses of instruction will be offered especially for the Nieman Fellows. A reporter, for instance, might take courses in science which would enable him to write newspaper stories on scientific developments, Dr. Conant pointed out in connection with the plan. Or reporters might take courses

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in economics, labor relations, history, problems of modern government, and international relations in order to become more expert in those fields. Editorial writers might study subjects which would enable them to comment more authoritatively on national problems. Some reporters, with the cooperation of their editors, might come to Cambridge to make a preliminary study for newspaper articles on any topics, doing the field work, when necessary, after leaving Harvard.

The report made by President Conant to the Board of Overseers said:

"New gifts for special purposes bring with them new responsibilities. Sometimes these responsibilities are such that the University accepts them with a heavy heart and some reluctance; in rare cases it refuses them altogether. But the recent Nieman bequest, though it places an additional problem at our door, can only be regarded as a great challenge to this particular academic community. We are asked to expend the money in such a way as to 'promote and elevate the standards of journalism,' using journalism in the widest sense of the term. The provisions of the will are very broad; there are no restrictions on the methods to be employed in accomplishing the desired end. After careful consideration and consultation with a number of journalists, the Corporation has decided that initially the income of the fund shall be used for fellowships which would enable men in newspaper work to come to the University for a period of study. These 'in-service fellowships' will carry stipends sufficient to make it possible for the holders to obtain a leave of absence from their regular work without too great financial loss.

"The fellowships will be open to those who have been in journalistic work for at least three years. It is hoped that a considerable number of able men of experience from all over the country will be applicants. The holder of such a fellowship would, of course, be invited to Cambridge only if he had a clear idea of the line of study he wished to pursue. Thus, a man interested in becoming an expert writer on finance, for example, might choose a year's work in economics; another with the prospect of a career as a foreign correspondent might

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wish to study history; or an editorial writer might desire to take advanced courses in several fields. There would be no new courses of instruction offered for these men; through a group of advisers they would be put in touch with the various existing courses and possibilities of study. It is proposed, furthermore, to have this group meet together from time to time in order to share their experience, and it is hoped that various men of eminence in the journalistic world will come to Cambridge for a few days now and then to hold conferences with the Nieman Fellows.

"To carefully selected men these fellowships should provide an opportunity to develop their talents during a period of study. The presence of a small group of practical and experienced newspapermen in residence is sure to enrich the Harvard community. The plan is frankly experimental. The exact path of development cannot now be traced. Since no building is involved and no additions to our staff are required, the scheme is flexible and if found impractical can be modified or indeed abandoned in favor of some other project which may seem more promising. We are, however, embarking on this enterprise with high hopes, confirmed by the favorable opinion of many journalists, editors and publishers who have been consulted. I believe that through this new undertaking Harvard may have the privilege of making a useful contribution to contemporary America by cooperation with certain members of the fourth estate."

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