

## In Memoriam

**Fritz Morstein Marx** was born on February 23, 1900, in Hamburg, Germany, the son of Ludwig and Amanda (Plumhof) Morstein Marx, two parents of strong character and will. Early in life Fritz already showed the determination and force of conviction which later so distinguished his stance in life. He also early showed his intellectual drive, love of books, and his intense love of nature and outdoor activities.

When still a very young man, he fought as an enlisted soldier in the Germany Army during World War I. Shortly after, he reenlisted at nineteen as a volunteer from 1919-20 during the period of confrontation with the Communists. Fritz was a student at the Universities of Hamburg, Freiburg, and Munich, and obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Hamburg in 1922. He had been a research associate there, and this connection was maintained until 1933. From 1922-33 he served as an administrative career officer of the State of Hamburg. Granted a leave of absence in 1930-31, he visited the United States as a Rockefeller Research Fellow, spending part of his time at the University of Chicago, where he met Barbara Spencer Spackman, whom he married in Germany.

In December 1933 Fritz left Germany as a matter of conviction, sailing with his wife and first child Barbara for the United States. In 1934, Fritz became an instructor at Princeton University, and the next year went to Harvard as an assistant professor, where he stayed until 1939. There in his teaching, he made some of his long-lasting friendships with students who were his tutees. The year 1939 brought him American citizenship and an assistant professorship at Queens College, and he moved with his family to Bayside, Long Island.

In 1941 the United States entered World War II, and for over a year Fritz resolutely sought to enlist in the military services, citing his physical fitness and previous military experience to counter the Army's opposition to his age and the number of his dependents. An associate at Queens College wrote to him in September 1942: "If you do not return to your college duties when the fall semester opens, I shall be keenly disappointed but not surprised." Soon afterward he succeeded in enlisting as a private. However, within a year, he was shifted to a governmental assignment in Washington, D.C. The assignment, as the Bureau of the Budget, Executive Office of the President, was destined to last for eighteen years,

until 1960. In 1948 his fifth child Ann was born. During these years, while he was also writing books and articles, Fritz continued his teaching, as an adjunct professor at American University, 1944-60, and a visiting professor at the University of Washington in 1957 and at the University of Southern California in 1959. Other places where he taught over the years included New York University, Columbia, Yale, and the University of Tübingen. Those who attended the courses recall the bracing discussion and incisive analyses which characterized the class sessions, in which the attack of professor and students upon the material gave special excitement. His professional interests also included service on the APSA Committee on Political Parties.

The decision he had made to leave the Bureau of the Budget was the result of his desire to return to full-time teaching and research. In October 1960, at the ceremonies for his departure, the presiding official spoke of Fritz's "boundless energy, matchless wit, and sardonic sense of humor at life and the bureaucracy," whose phlegmatic hide Fritz had always delighted in teasing and pricking. And a colleague making a speech of farewell took Fritz's measure with the following words: "Scholar, educator, analyst, author, bicycle rider, soldier, historian, mountain climber, public administrator, legalist, linguist, sociologist, benefactor and friend." If he had known it, he could also have added, poet and water-colorist.

In 1959-60 Fritz returned full-time to the academic life as Ford Foundation Research Professor in Governmental Affairs at Princeton. He concluded this very pleasant and productive year by zestfully bicycling on back roads all the way from Princeton to Washington. From 1960-62 he was Dean of Administration at Hunter College, a job in whose predicaments and challenges he took the utmost delight. In 1962, Fritz accepted the offer of a professorship at the Speyer Academy of Administrative Sciences in Germany. There he continued teaching, speaking at conferences, writing, editing, and publishing.

Of Fritz's extraordinary productivity in his life's work, his iconoclasm and uniqueness, his breadth and brilliance of intellect, his innumerable books and articles, and his gifts as a political scientist and expert in public administration, nothing can be said that would not be superfluous. Likewise, his gifts as a human being, a husband, a father, and a friend need no telling. There was his courage, gallantry, and playfulness of spirit. It was this life

in full-bloom that was cut short by a joyful spontaneous leap across a 60-foot deep chasm on October 5, 1969. He and his family had been walking and climbing together on a leisurely and sunlit Sunday. afternoon excursion to the Alten Schloss cliffs near Baden-Baden, near the Black Forest. For reasons that will never be known and seem impossible, the leap failed. Though desperately injured, with his unbelievable vitality and strength Fritz kept hold of consciousness and life and showed remarkable improvement. He remained cheerful and found his fall "incredible, simply incredible." On the evening of October 9 complications from his injuries overcame him, and he died holding the hands of his family.

Barbara Spencer Marx  
Washington, D.C.