W&M Names Spong Head of Law School

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William B. Spong Jr., a former U.S. Senator, was named dean of the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. Although he had been suggested for the post by law school faculty members for many years, his selection was announced by the College's then-president, Dr. Thomas A. Graves Jr., who said that Professor Emerich Fischer would continue until July as acting dean.

WILLIAMSBURG—Former U.S. Sen. William B. Spong Jr. was named as expected yesterday to be the dean of the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. Spong, who had been suggested for the post by law school faculty members for many years, was appointed by the College's then-president, Dr. Thomas A. Graves Jr., who said that Professor Emerich Fischer would continue until July as acting dean.

The president-elect of the Virginia Bar Association will officially become dean on July 1. Beginning Jan. 1, however, Spong will formally join the faculty as Woodbridge professor and dean-designate on a part-time basis, while he continues his law practice in Portsmouth where he is senior partner.

Dr. Thomas A. Graves Jr., William and Mary president, in announcing Spong's appointment, said that Professor Emerich Fischer would continue until July 1 as acting dean, a post he assumed in August when James P. Whyte Jr. resigned to return to full-time teaching.

Spong Only Choice

Spong was the only choice of the search committee, which on Nov. 3 asked the board of visitors in a secret meeting in Richmond to consider only Spong. Graves and Spong met several times during the past three weeks to work out arrangements for the latter to take the job.

Apparently Spong's concerns about administration of the law school were allayed. The board of visitors also announced that it intended to modify its own bylaws by July I in order to provide for the law school dean to report directly to the college president.

Spong brings to the post, faculty members have said, excellent academic credentials as well as extensive legal understanding and state political acumen. He attended Hampden-Sydney College and graduated from the University of Virginia Law School. He did graduate work in international law at the University of Edinburgh and Cambridge University.

Spong served in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1954-55 and the State Senate from 1956-66, after which he was elected to the U.S. Senate. He was defeated in his re-election bid in 1972 and returned to law practice. He taught part-time at U.Va. in 1973 and has served three semesters as Cutler lecturer in law at William and Mary.

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