



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 14, 1964

To Members of the Faculty:

I regret to announce the death of Dr. Douglas M. McGregor, Sloan Fellows Professor of Industrial Management, on Tuesday, October 13, at Emerson Hospital, Concord, following a heart attack at his home in Acton. Dr. McGregor was one of the nation's leading authorities on the study of human organization, and his scholarship, his deep interest in the welfare of the individual, and his great personal warmth had been for many years an inspiration to colleagues and students alike.

Born on September 16, 1906, in Detroit, Dr. McGregor received his A.B. degree from Wayne University in 1932 and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in psychology from Harvard University in 1933 and 1935. He was an Instructor in psychology at Harvard for two years before coming to M.I.T. in 1937 as an Instructor in the Department of Economics and Social Science. He became Assistant Professor of Psychology in 1938, Associate Professor in 1942, and Professor in 1948.

Dr. McGregor was a founder of the Industrial Relations Section and was serving as its director in 1948 when he was appointed President of Antioch College at Yellow Springs, Ohio. He returned to M.I.T. in 1954 as Professor of Industrial Management, and in 1962 was appointed to the Sloan Fellows Chair on its establishment by a grant from the Society of Sloan Fellows.

A specialist in social psychology and in its applications to management, Dr. McGregor had conducted extensive studies designed to increase our understanding of human motivation. He believed particularly that "the motivation, the potential for development, the capacity for assuming responsibility, the readiness to direct behavior toward organization goals are all present in people," and that, as a result, organizations could be made more effective by providing their members with broad opportunities for self-development and self-direction. Much of his philosophy was summed up in his book The Human Side of Enterprise, published in 1960.

For two years during World War II Dr. McGregor was Director of Industrial Relations for Dewey & Almy Chemical Co. He also served during the war years as a Department of Labor analyst concerned with labor supply in New England; participated in a study of the longshore and maritime industries for the U. S. Army; and acted as arbitrator in war industry labor disputes.

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A member of the Board of the Foundation for Research in Human Behavior, he was an associate of the National Training Laboratories for Group Development; a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; on the Board of Trustees of Antioch College; and a member of the American Psychological Association, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi.

He is survived by his wife, Caroline Ferris McGregor; two children, Mrs. Patricia Colvard of Buffalo and Peter, a graduate student at the University of Chicago; his father, Murray McGregor of De Land, Florida, and a brother, Donald McGregor of Birmingham, Michigan.

A memorial service will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, October 16, at the M.I.T. Chapel. The family requests that no flowers be sent.

J. A. STRATTON