

REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF RICHARD A. CLOWARD

Herman D. Stein

Herman D. Stein is a University Professor and Professor Emeritus at Case Western Reserve University. He has also served as Dean of the School of Applied Social Sciences at CWRU, and invited Cloward to speak there five times. They taught together at Columbia University, wrote a book together, and remained very close friends through the years.

*In a letter accompanying his "remarks," he wrote the editor (Paul Abels) the following: "Cloward's intellectual honesty was apparent from the first. No one was ever in doubt where he stood on any issue in which he had an interest...Richard Cloward was a towering figure in the field, proud to call himself a social worker, as well as a sociologist. He was a unique combination of scholar and activist. I am glad you are giving him proper recognition in *Reflections*."*

I regret very much not being able to be with you. I wanted to be at the memorial service and on the program for several reasons:

First, I played a significant role in the early part of his career.

Second, I was his friend.

Third, we produced a book together.

Fourth, I was still his friend.

Fifth, to pay homage to his unique stature in the field of social welfare and social policy.

I was at the Columbia school of Social Work for many years in several roles, but my greatest contribution was to invite Richard Cloward to the faculty in 1954. A course had been introduced on social science and social welfare emphasizing elements for practice. It became very popular and this required additional help, so I searched for a colleague. It was not easy, but when I met Dick Cloward at Lloyd Olin's suggestion, the search ended. It was not so much that he had his Ph.D. in sociology, as well as an M.S.W., and had published a significant paper. What appealed to me was his honesty and modesty, as well as high intelligence. Despite his doubts to begin with about teaching, he quickly became a very successful and popular teacher. He once referred to me as being his mentor, and I was – for about two weeks.

If I had any doubts about whether he could hold his own in faculty gamesmanship, they were gone when I introduced him to a regular poker game, where he played a consistently cool and frequently winning hand and could not be bluffed.

After some time, we produced a book that took some two years of Sunday morning meetings in the basement of my home,

reviewing some 40 years of writings, in order to select ideas we thought relevant for the interests and work of practitioners. Dick, of course, chose ideas to introduce dealing with class and power.

I was director of the school's research center when Cloward launched the Mobilization for Youth project, which changed from a delinquency prevention study to a highly contentious war on poverty program with political repercussions.

I left Columbia in 1964 for a deanship at what was then Western Reserve University, but managed to be in touch frequently. Five times I brought him to the University. Once was during our fiftieth anniversary program, where we had such luminaries as Gunnar Myrdal and Michael Harrington, among other speakers. In his incisive commentary on Harrington's paper, Dick argued against social planning as a cure for poverty or injustice. Cloward claimed that the poor cannot protect themselves against planning methodology and bureaucracy. Their problem, he maintained, was political, and it required a political solution.

With his brilliant colleague and collaborator, Professor Francis Piven, he became an advocate and activist for the poor, rather than an academic commentator, and the force behind a successful voting rights movement that serves the interest of the poor. At the close of his career, he is recognized as a giant figure on American Sociology and social welfare, both in intellect and practical achievement, an inspiration to generations to come.

I salute my old colleague, Richard A. Cloward, for his great achievements, and thank him for the privilege of calling him friend.

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