



The Association of American University Presses, Inc.
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Remarks by Herbert S. Bailey, Jr., Director, Princeton University Press
and President-Elect (1971-1972) of
The Association of American University Presses

I'm going to be brief, as it says in the program, and I have really only two things to say. One is that the purpose of this Association is to help its members publish scholarly books. It is a mutual self-help Association. Its work is carried on by quite a large number of devoted people on committees, and I'm happy to say that to a large degree the committees for next year have already been designated. They will be announced. From the response that I have had so far, I feel very confident that there will be a lot of very good and very helpful work done during the coming year.

The other thing I have to say is that in adversity--and we have been hearing a lot about adversity--sometimes one finds friends, other people who are in trouble, too. Our trouble is that we are having a lot of difficulty publishing scholarly books. As I have talked with scholars over the past few months, I think there's an increasing awareness that this isn't just our problem. It's really the problem of higher education. It's the problem of scholarship.

We have heard over the years a lot of rubbish, I would say, about publish and perish. This is not to say that some books have been published that shouldn't have been published, or that some books have been written for ~~the~~ wrong reasons. But really scholars write books because they have something to say, because they want to participate in the onward flow and growth of their scholarly disciplines. And if we can't publish their books, those disciplines will not be able to progress.

A man doesn't write without some prospect of publication. Since writing is a form of thinking, if a man doesn't write, he doesn't think in the same way about his subject, and some fields that are becoming so difficult to publish in will perhaps die if publication ceases. This is not just a matter of concern to us; it's a cultural problem, a problem for our whole society. It's a problem for scholars. It's a problem for the scholarly associations, and one thing I think we might do this coming year is to make common cause with the scholarly associations. I'm going to discuss with the new Board

at the first opportunity the idea of appointing what might be called a Common Cause Committee to explore with some of these scholarly associations how we and they in our adversity, which we share, can work together to do the things that really do need to be done, that are important to be done, and that we are all here to do.