

April 14, 1975

ERWIN D. CANHAM

PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER

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Mr. Erwin D. Canham, who was designated by the President on April 11 to serve as his Personal Representative for supervision of the forthcoming Plebiscite in the Mariana Islands District, has a long and distinguished record of public service. He is internationally known for a wide range of activities including almost thirty years as editor of The Christian Science Monitor of which he is now Editor Emeritus.

Born in Auburn, Maine, Mr. Canham received his B.A. Degree from Bates College in 1925 and the Honorary Degree of Litt.D. in 1946. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, England, from which he holds both B.A. and M.A. Degrees. Institutions which have awarded him Honorary Degrees include Boston, Yale, Tufts, Temple and Brigham Young Universities, and Principia, Lafayette and Bowdoin Colleges.

Mr. Canham's early journalistic work included covering annual sessions of the League of Nations 1926-1932 in Geneva, Switzerland and the London Naval Conference of 1930. He was head of the Washington Bureau of The Christian Science Monitor 1932-1939 and subsequently Editor and Editor-in-Chief 1964-1974 of that international daily newspaper. He has covered numerous nationwide political surveys as well as trips of American Presidents. He was Deputy Chairman of the United States Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information in 1948 and United States Alternate Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1949. He was a member of the President's Commission for Information and of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, 1948-1951. He was Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston 1962-1967. He served on the President's Commission on Campus Unrest in 1970 and is a member of the boards of several philanthropic and educational institutions. He continues his long-time work as radio and T.V. commentator. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Chamber of Commerce, the American Association of Newspaper Editors, the Association of American Rhodes Scholars, and Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Scholastic Fraternity.

Mr. Canham has been awarded citations by the Governments of England, France, Greece, Germany, and Austria.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY EXTRACTED FROM WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA 1972-73

CANHAM, ERWIN DAIN, newspaper editor, radio and TV commentator; b. Auburn, Me., Feb. 13, 1904; s. Vincent Walter and Elizabeth May (Gowell) C.; B.A., Bates Coll., 1925, Litt. D., 1946; B.A., M.A. (Rhodes scholar), Oxford U. (Eng); recipient numerous honorary degrees, including L.H.D., Boston U., 1948, Yale, 1949; L.L.D., Principia Coll., 1951, Tufts U., 1958, Temple U., 1959; Litt. D., Brigham Young U., 1962; L.L.D., Lafayette Coll., Bowdoin Coll., 1967; m. Thelma Whitman Hart, May 10, 1930 (dec.); children - Carolyn (Mrs. R. Shale Paul), Elizabeth (Mrs. Lyle Davis); m. 2d, Patience M. Daltry. Reporter, Christian Sci. Monitor, 1925, covered annual sessions of League of Nat., 1926, 27, 28. Chief corr. Christian Sci. Monitor at Lon. Naval Conf., 1930; corr. Geneva, Switzerland, 1930-32; head of Wash. Bur., Christian Sci. Monitor, 1932-39 gen. news editor, 1939-41, mng. editor, 1941-44, editor, 1945-64, editor in chief, 1964-; nation wide polit. surveys and covered trips of Am. Presidents; attended inauguration Philippine Commonwealth Govt. and wrote on Far East, 1935; dep. chmn. U.S. delegation U.N. Conf. on Freedom of Information, 1948; U.S. alternate del. U.N. Gen. Assembly, 1949; mem. U.S. Commn. for Information, U.S. Nat. Commn. for UNESCO, 1948-51; mem. Pres.'s Commn. on Campus Unrest, 1970. dir. John Hancock Mut. Life Ins. Co., Keystone Custodian Funds, Inc.; chmn. Fed. Reserve Bank of Boston, 1962-67. Bd. dirs. Nat. Safety Council, v.p. religious leaders, 1964-68; dir. Resources for Future. Trustee, Boston Pub. Library (pres. 1968-), Robert A. Taft Inst. of Govt., 20th Century Fund, Bates Coll., Simmons Coll., Wellesley Coll.; mem. corp. Northeastern U. Radio commentator, 1938-39, 45-. Decorated hon. comdr. Order Brit. Empire; officer French Legion Honor; Order of George I (Greece); grand distinguished service cross Order of Merit (German Federal Republic); Grand Silver Badge of Honor (Austria); recipient John Peter Zenger award U. Ariz., 1970. Fellow Am. Acad. Arts and Scis.; mem. U.S.C. of C. (chmn. bd. 1960, dir.), Am. Soc. Newspaper Editors (pres. 1948-49), Assn. Am. Rhodes Scholars, Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Sigma Rho.