



COLLEGE REPORT

By ROBERT M. BERSI
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Occasionally, as one of my many duties at the college, I find myself swathed in academic regalia, parading and otherwise participating in the formal inauguration of a new college president at one or the other of our Los Angeles area campuses. At one such ceremony recently, I sat amid the sea of caps and gowns and doctoral capes, listening to the acceptance address of a new college president and wondering, as

many people must these turbulent days, just what makes a scholar take on this Herculean and seemingly thankless job. To answer such a question, both for myself and those of you who may be interested, requires a perusal of the history of the college presidency, as well as a consideration of what the jobs amount to today.

THE SPECIES college president flourishes only in the United States. The rest of the world manages to get along without the ministrations of this extraordinary personage.

On the European continent, the head of a higher educational

institution resembles an American college president hardly at all. In Germany, he has the title of rector and stays in office for a single year after which he returns to his professorship. In France, he is the creature and agent of the Ministry of Education in Paris; and although he may be in office for an extended period, he lives and works apart from faculty and students and has no board of trustees to check him. In England, the three oldest, largest, and best known universities — Oxford, Cambridge, and London — operate much like the German universities; and the chief administrator, called the vice-chancellor, stays in office for either a

single year or at most for three years. **THE CHANCELLOR**, incidentally, centuries ago ceased having anything to do with academic administration. Today he's a great public figure who appears once a year in a fabulous gold-embossed robe to confer honorary degrees. In the newer English universities and in Scottish universities, the vice-chancellors — like American college presidents — continue in office at the pleasure of local and autonomous governing boards; but the vice-chancellors of British universities have few of the prerogatives of their American

counterparts. They have little power; and although their status has greatly improved in the recent past, I never heard of any of them being inducted into office with the pomp and ceremony accorded American college and university presidential inaugurations. They just start to work on some appointed day, and that's that. **THE FANFARE** of an inauguration sounds only for American ears. The British have the exuberant excitement of coronations; we have the more frequent and milder titillations of inaugurating presidents of the nation and of our colleges. In a series of columns to fol-

New Dean Appointed

Richard Bernard has been named to the post of assistant dean of student activities at Harbor College, it was announced today by Wendell C. Black, college president. Bernard fills the post left vacant by Edward Robings who moved to Los Angeles City College to head a community relations program. Bernard had been serving as advisor to the student senate on a temporary basis while holding down a position of counselor. He started his teaching career in 1947 at Jefferson High School, moving to Narbonne in 1952. In 1962, he joined the Harbor faculty in the political science division. In 1959, Bernard taught in a small Dutch college on a Fulbright teaching fellowship. With his wife Dorothy and son Jim, 16, he lives at 505 Avenue D, Redondo Beach.

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