February 7, 1993

Deans, Rudy Martin, Jane Jervis, and a few other folks

Dear friends,

At a recent faculty meeting, where we were discussing the Deanery, Rudy Martin made the observation that folks who become deans have had the experience of being part of the faculty on Friday afternoon and an alien administrator on Monday morning (or words to that effect--I can't remember his words exactly). This is an old phenomenon.

Some of you will recall that during the first few years of the College I wrote a few fables, which were published in the CPJ (or whatever the paper was called in those days). I can't find the published form of the relevant fable, but here's the original. It was written sometime around 1974, I think, in response to precisely this reaction to Will Humphreys as dean.

I don't have an answer to the problem. But as we consider the nature of the Deanery this coming week, maybe it will at least help to recognize it. Recognizing the phenomenon may be the best cure for it.

Best wishes,

Burt Guttman