

## **Robert Mayne Albright '31**

Mayne Albright spent nine years at Chapel Hill as a Phi Beta Kappa student earning three degrees, serving as student body president, and absorbing the legacy of enlightenment of Chapel Hill and Dr. Frank Porter Graham in the 1930s.

Throughout his career of public service and law, Mayne has been a custodian of the liberal tradition of this University. John Sanders, Director of the Institute of Government, recently said, "Mayne Albright is an articulate spokesman for the enlightened impulses of the state and has helped us keep our responsibilities focused."

In World War II, Mayne was decorated for his role in reestablishing collective bargaining and union organization in Italy freeing thousands of troops for duty.

After the war, through the Democratic Party, Mayne organized veterans into an organization which stood for a more progressive government for North Carolina. He believed that men and women returning from service should have the opportunity of full participation in state government.

Mayne was distinguished as the nation's youngest state director of the U.S. Employment Service, a post he held from 1936 to 1942. During that time, he was elected president of the International Association of Public Employment Services.

In 1946 Mayne went to work as the state chairman of an organization of which Dr. Frank Graham was president. The goal of the group was to work through the United Nations to prevent future wars. Dr. Graham and Mayne believed that world peace could best be achieved through world law.

Mayne Albright is a man of courage with a desire for a better world. He was one of the founders of the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union; he toured for Frank Graham in his Senate race, facing hostile crowds; he has been a decision maker for the Episcopal Church's Social Concerns Committee.

With the help of his popular wife, the late Frances Stanley Albright, Mayne ran for governor in 1948 on a program of "planned progress and clean politics." He and Frances toured the state in their trailer, appropriately named "Challenger" campaigning "... mostly on the idea that in spite of the good things North Carolina had done, we still lagged behind in the areas of health, welfare, and per-capita income."

From his law practice in Raleigh and writing articles on history, Mayne Albright has taken time to work for the University at Chapel Hill. He was the first chairman of Alumni Annual Giving. In 1956 he chaired the Chancellor Selection Committee which sought a successor to Chancellor House. They found William B. Aycock. He was the 1956-57 President of the General Alumni Association.

As a Chapel Hill student in 1933, Mayne's well-known oratory ability was heralded by a newspaper which said: "He not only had the manner, the polish, the appeal, and all the elements of the artist, but he had something to say, and that is a rare virtue."

And it has continued true throughout his career that, to us all, Mayne Albright has had something to say.