

# Dr. B. T. Riley Submits Report Calls For Philo. Dept. Change

Dr. Bruce T. Riley, Associate Chairman of the Philosophy Department, has submitted an eleven page report which recommends the dissolution of the Neo-Scholastic section of the Philosophy Department.

The report was submitted at the request of Dr. Earle Edgar, acting chairman of the Philosophy Department, who asked both associate chairmen of the divided Philosophy Department to submit their views on reorganization. Father Joseph R. Lucas has not yet submitted his report.

Dr. Riley states that to bring "The dichotomy to an end will be a matter for stern decision, made with greatest accuracy, and backed up with a degree of courage." The report goes on to say that only then is it possible to "restore Academic responsibility" to the Philosophy Department.

Dr. Riley is further opposed to any policy of quiescence whereby Scholastic courses might be independently continued without identifying them as ecclesiastically sponsored.

Thomism, states Dr. Riley in his report, "is medieval in its approach, and is based on a logic that is outmoded: all developments of the modern relational logic are ignored in

everything Thomism presents."

According to Dr. Riley, the methods of achieving his proposed changes are the responsibility of the acting chairman and the administration.

Dr. Riley also suggested that a new academic unit, that of a Department of Religion, be created. There should be some cross-listing of courses between this department and the Philosophy Department. These would include such courses as History of Religions and Philosophy of Religion.

Specific recommendations for the Religion Department were not made. Dr. Riley stated that this would be a matter for a separate report.

Along with the elimination of the scholastic courses, which are hardly taken seriously outside of the Catholic institution in the 20th century, Dr. Riley suggested that the Introduction to Philosophy course be given an epistemological perspective throughout, and made pre-requisite to everything else in the department except Symbolic Logic.

Another of Dr. Riley's suggestions was the creation of a History of Medieval Philosophy course to be inserted between the already existing Histories of Ancient and Modern Philosophy.

Dr. Riley's report also noted an immediate need for capable personnel in the areas of Advanced Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Linguistic Analysis, and Advanced Symbolic Logic.



Dr. Bruce T. Riley