

## Regarding James Q. Wilson

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Jim Wilson arrived at the University of Chicago, from the Navy, in 1956. I had arrived from the Army a few months earlier. We, and our young wives, all from Southern California, discovered we shared very similar tastes and interests. We all became close friends for much more than half a century.

I won't reminisce today about our extended policy discussions, the board games of military battles that we played ("D-Day" went on for three days, and was still not decided when Jim and Roberta had to leave Michigan), our SCUBA diving trips, African safaris, endless conversations, or much good fun.

Instead, I would like to touch upon one aspect of Jim's intellectual development; specifically the importance of Edward C. Banfield, and mention a few other persons. I have said on another occasion that my contribution to academic political science was stimulating Jim to work with Ed Banfield.

Jim's intent in coming to the University of Chicago had been to study agricultural politics with Charles Hardin. (My intent had been to create "scientific politics" with David Easton.) I met Ed Banfield, took a seminar with him, and was powerfully impressed. I urged Jim to do the same. He did.

1. Several have said that Ed's meticulous writing influenced Jim. But Ed's complex policy concerns also influenced Jim and other graduate students, certainly including me. As early as the mid-1950's, Ed was concerned about what he perceived to be the rising radical left. Some radicalism was evident among graduate students at the time. He so advised the FBI. In 1956, Ed alerted me to an unknown Chicago organizer named Saul Alinsky. Ed worried that Black nationalism, political separatism, and perhaps violence would grow dangerously in American cities.

He stimulated Essien U. Essien-Udom to write the book entitled *Black Nationalism: The Search for An Identity in America*, about Elijah Muhammad, a contemporary leader of the Black Muslims.

Ed stimulated Jim to study the increasingly influential Black political organization in Chicago. Of course, Jim's effort yielded his first book, *Negro Politics: The Search for Leadership*.

(Ed urged me to examine empirically and to question the "power elite" theories of C. Wright Mills and Floyd Hunter that then enjoyed some popularity. Jim suggested that, when I did not publish about the mythical "power elite," I had sold out and instead had tried to become one. As usual, he was probably right.)

Simply, Ed Banfield thought a lot about the risks of conflict in the U.S.

2. Ed's analytical conception of the behavior of organizations influenced Jim.

Ed's seminars always seemed to include respectful treatment of Chester Barnard's book, *The Functions of the Executive*. These discussions caused Jim and me to try to codify, simplify, and generalize Barnard's insights. Barnard's ideas led us to our paper on Incentive Theory. John Dilulio argues that it undergirds all of his subsequent work on bureaucracy. I believe that John is correct. Jim and I were slightly surprised that Ed did not himself formalize Barnard's ideas.

Ed drafted but never published materials on Mormon communities he knew in the Southwest. He was apparently very impressed by the extent to which Mormon theology seemingly helped to hold together, to unify, and practically to guide Mormon communities. I think this paper helped to increase Jim's deep involvement with the reciprocal relationship between ideology and behavior.

3. Later, Jim worked intensely with Ed at Harvard. Moreover, he worked relatively comfortably with Ed; not an entirely easy task. The similarities in their developing thought are evident in the excellent work they jointly hammered out.

In my opinion, it is significant that Ed Banfield had become close to Leo Strauss, the scholar of classical philosophy, during Ed's Chicago years. Strauss certainly influenced Ed toward increased philosophical and moral concerns in his academic work. I think that Ed became more personally engaged with philosophical matters. A second effect, I believe, was to move Jim in the same directions. Jim's evolution from superb empirical analyst to profound student of moral philosophy was of very great importance.

4. At Harvard, Jim became friends with Daniel Patrick Moynihan, later U.S. Senator, and his creative wife, Liz. Jim's continuing contacts with Pat and, later, with other Federal officials, including Judge William Webster (once head of the FBI and the CIA) drew him more deeply into national security matters. Jim had been involved in intelligence work in the Navy. He certainly enjoyed service on President Reagan's PFIAB and on FBI committees. In my opinion, his strongest interests during recent years had been with national security matters. Had he lived, I believe Jim would have contributed even more in this, mostly unreported, respect.

5. I have mentioned in other places the importance to Jim's work of his wife, Roberta Evans Wilson. She was, I think, an influential private commentator on his writings. She is a very bright person, a very well-read person, and a college debate partner of Jim's. Roberta stimulated even greater clarity and balance to an already insightful and well-balanced political thinker. We are all indebted to her, as we are to Jim.

It is an honor to attend this thoughtful conference on a great political scientist and a very good friend.

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