Reflections on Policy and the Aftermath of the Financial Crisis

Lawrence H. Summers

Charles W. Eliot University Professor and President Emeritus, Harvard University
71st Secretary of the Treasury under President Clinton, Director of the National Economic Council for President Obama, and Vice President of Development Economics, and Chief Economist of the World Bank

Monday, September 15, 2014
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Fitts Auditorium | Golkin Hall
Reception to follow in the Davis Student Union
Leon C. L’51 and June W. Holt

Leon “Lee” Holt L’51 retired as vice chairman and chief administrative officer of Air Products and Chemicals Inc. in 1990. A member of the board of directors and chairman of the Air Products Foundation, Mr. Holt had been with Air Products for 33 years. Previously, he practiced law with the Wall Street firm of Mudge, Stern, Williams & Tucker and with American Oil Co.

Mr. Holt is a member of the advisory board of the Institute for Law and Economics at Penn Law School and served on the board of overseers for nearly a decade. He also serves on the board of trustees of the Committee for Economic Development. Among his community activities, Mr. Holt is a trustee of The Rider-Pool Foundation and the Holt Family Foundation, as well as a member of the board of trustees of the Allentown Art Museum, for which he served as president from 1988 to 1992. He is a former trustee and chair of the Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust, and a former member of the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Holt earned a B.S. in materials science and engineering from Lehigh University in 1948.

June Weidner Holt was a founding member of the Society of the Arts of the Allentown Art Museum. She served on the boards of United Way, YWCA, Wiley House (now KidsPeace), Lehigh Valley Hospice, and Sacred Heart Hospital. She and Mr. Holt were active in the formation of Lehigh Valley Hospital. Mrs. Holt, who received her AB from Cornell University in 1947, worked for Western Electric, RCA Victor, and Cohn Hall Marx. The Holts have two children and five grandchildren.

Lawrence H. Summers is the Charles W. Eliot University Professor and President Emeritus of Harvard University. During the past two decades, he has served in a series of senior policy positions in Washington, D.C., as the 71st Secretary of the Treasury under President Clinton, Director of the National Economic Council for President Obama, and Vice President of Development Economics & Chief Economist of the World Bank.

Mr. Summers received a B.S. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1975 and was awarded a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1982. In 1983, he became one of the youngest individuals in recent history to be named as a tenured member of the Harvard University faculty. In 1987, Mr. Summers became the first social scientist ever to receive the annual Alan T. Waterman Award of the National Science Foundation (NSF), and in 1993 he was awarded the John Bates Clark Medal, given every two years to the outstanding American economist under the age of 40.

Mr. Summers is currently the Charles W. Eliot University Professor at Harvard University and the Weil Director of the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business & Government at Harvard’s Kennedy School. He and his wife Elisa New, a professor of English at Harvard, reside in Brookline with their six children.

The 2007 and 2009 financial crisis was a watershed event for the American financial system, the American economy, and the global system. The world will not be the same in its aftermath. Professor Summers shall reflect on policies to address the continuing damage to real economic activity caused by the financial crisis, policies to prevent reoccurrence of financial crisis, and policies made possible by the changed political environment caused by the financial crisis.

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