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Robert C. Line to retire from Business Administration faculty

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December 6, 1957

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Prof. Robert C. Line has announced his intention to retire from the Montana State University business administration faculty on January 1, President Carl McFarland said.

The veteran Montana educator will be honored by his colleagues in the School of Business Administration and other faculty members at a luncheon in the MSU Lodge on Saturday.

Prof. Line was dean of the School of Business Administration from the time of his appointment to the faculty in 1927 until 1945, when he was one of the American educators selected by the War Dept. to staff the Shrivenham American University at Shrivenham, England. The school was one of three maintained in Europe during World War II where service men could take university work while awaiting reassignment. He spent part of his overseas assignment with the Army's education program in Frankfurt, Germany. He also served during the war as wage stabilization director with the War Labor Board in Seattle, Wash.

Prof. Line was a member of the state board of education from 1921 - 1927, a time that saw tremendous building activity at the University. Under the aggressive building program of this six-year period, the number of buildings on the campus increased from five to a dozen, all but one of them constructed under the last bond issue authorized until 1948.

Working with the state superintendent of public instruction, Prof. Line pioneered in the development of Montana's distributive education program in the high schools, the business counterpart of the agricultural program carried

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on in secondary schools under the Smith-Hughes Act. For many years he was educational adviser to the Associated Merchants of Montana, and in this capacity he visited every county in the state during summer vacations from MSU. At one time he served for a year as assistant manager of the industrial bureau of the New York Merchants' Assn.

In his long tenure at the University, Prof. Line has served on countless faculty committees. Because of his travel abroad and his deep interest in foreign affairs, he was appointed chairman of the foreign student committee. In this post he has been adviser to foreign students on the campus for the past five years, an assignment he says he has enjoyed thoroughly.

A native Montanan, Prof. Line earned a B. A. from the University in 1910 and an M. A. in economics from Harvard University in 1912. At the urging of Prof. Frank W. Taussig of Harvard, he entered the University of Freiberg, Germany, in 1914. His graduate studies at Freiberg were interrupted by the outbreak of World War I.

Prof. Line has had interests in the retail business and in cattle ranching for many years. He has taught at Mount Holyoke College, the University of Minnesota, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Washington; and he has been a special lecturer at the Universities of Kansas, Oregon, and Manitoba. He is the author of many articles in professional journals and co-author of a book, "Marketing in the West".

Prof. and Mrs. Line have four children, three of whom live in Missoula. A daughter, Mrs. Louise Line Grout of Seattle, and Robert C. Line, Jr., are graduates of MSU. Mrs. Harriet Line Flaccus was graduated from Newcomb College for Women in Louisiana, and David Line received his degree from Pomona College

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in California.

Prof. Line says he intends to devote some of his time after his retirement to various business and ranching interests.

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