John A. Gronouski, founding dean and retired professor of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, died on January 7, 1996. He was 76.

Professor Gronouski was born on October 16, 1919, in Dunbar, Wisconsin. He studied at the University of Wisconsin and earned his bachelor's degree there in 1942. Following service in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, he returned to the University of Wisconsin and received master's and PhD degrees in 1947 and 1955, respectively.

Prior to his tenure at The University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Gronouski taught at the University of Maine and at Wayne State University. In 1959 he entered public service with the Wisconsin Department of Taxation. In 1963 he was named postmaster general by President John F. Kennedy. He was reappointed to the position in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Shortly afterwards, President Johnson named him Ambassador to Poland. During his service in Poland, he was involved in the critical "Warsaw Talks" between the United States and Communist China. In addition, he worked with the Polish government to persuade North Vietnam to engage in peace negotiations to end the Vietnam War.

In 1969 Professor Gronouski was named to a joint appointment as dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and professor of economics. Under his tenure the school received its first class in fall 1970.

Dr. Gronouski took part in numerous civic activities. In the 1970s, he served as the court-appointed master on school desegregation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In the 1980s, he chaired a commission studying the possible merger of Austin and Travis County governments into one metropolitan government. He was on the board of the National Urban League, a noted civil rights organization, and received its Whitney M. Young Jr. distinguished service award. Dr. Gronouski also served as a trustee of the John F. Kennedy Library.

John R. Durbin, Secretary
The General Faculty