

## **SCDI Founder: Richard Spady**

Richard Spady, a student and practitioner of Administrative Theory, is president of the Forum Foundation. A Seattle businessman, he co-founded Dick's Drive-in Restaurants in 1954 and currently is its president. Spady is active in community affairs, and is a lay speaker in The United Methodist Church.

"I learned long ago that if something needs to get done, one has to get organized to do it. So in 1997 I helped organize the Stuart C. Dodd Institute for Social Innovation. It is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization to encourage scholarly, interdisciplinary research in the archives of Stuart C. Dodd. Here is the story behind the Institute.

An institute to continue the work of Dr. Dodd had been a dream of mine for many years. But Dodd's work on mathematical cosmology is not for the faint of heart; few people can understand it, much less move it forward. My acquaintance with the Rev. Dr. Richard S. Kirby through the *World Network of Religious Futurists* told me he might be the person for the job.

I visited Dr. Kirby in London in 1994. He had finished his Masters of Divinity studies at General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, New York (USA) in 1985 and his Ph.D. in Theology studies at King's College, London from 1987 to 1992. Richard Kirby is an outstanding scholar. I judged he had the capacity to pick up the traces left in the archives of Stuart Dodd.

Dr. Kirby was open to my proposal, and he wanted to return to the United States. I offered him a home and office in Seattle (owned by my business firm and dedicated to public service) and invited him to be the Stuart C. Dodd Chair in Social Innovation at the Forum Foundation. He accepted, came to Seattle in 1995, and is now an American citizen. When the Stuart C. Dodd Institute for Social Innovation was formed in 1997, Richard Kirby became its first Executive Director."