

# George Stigler Quotes

*Chicago, Competition, Science, Theory, Study, Law, Citizens, Answers, Years,  
Mother, Social, Directors, Issues, 1960s, Men, Mind, Next Year, Philosophy,  
Numbers, Challenges*

...it is distressing how often one can guess the answer given to an economic question merely by knowing who asks it.

~George Stigler

I attended schools in Seattle through the University of Washington, from which I was graduated in 1931. I spent the next year at Northwestern University.

~George Stigler

The main insight learned from interdisciplinary studies is the return to specialization

~George Stigler

Competition is a tough weed, not a delicate flower.

~George Stigler

There is only one social science and we are its practitioners

~George Stigler

My teaching began in 1936 at Iowa State College where T. W. Schultz was the department chairman.

~George Stigler

If you never miss a plane, you're spending too much time at the airport.

~George Stigler

I recall my mother asking in about 1946 what I was and I replied proudly that I was a professor. A decade later she repeated her question and I repeated my answer. "No promotion?" was her comment.

~George Stigler

Theories are not rejected by circumstantial evidence: it takes a theory to beat a theory.

~George Stigler

It was in the 1960s that I began the detailed study of public regulation.

~George Stigler

All great economists are tall. There are two exceptions: John Kenneth Galbraith and Milton Friedman.

~George Stigler

...the number of saintly men has not yet risen to the level where the census makes them a separate statistical category.

~George Stigler

Stigler's Law: No scientific discovery is named after its original discoverer.

~George Stigler

And yet I would not freely exchange my science for those of my fellow laureates. They are forever confined in their professional discussions to the small numbers of their fellow scientists.

~George Stigler

In the 1950s, I proposed the survivor method of determining the efficient sizes of enterprises, and worked on delivered price systems, vertical integration, and similar topics.

~George Stigler

My interests were aroused, and my faith in the cliches of the subject destroyed, as so often with other subjects, by the discussions with my friend, Aaron Director.

~George Stigler

I met my wife, Margaret L. Mack, at the University of Chicago. We were married in 1936. She died in 1970.

~George Stigler

In 1958, I came to Chicago where I have remained.

~George Stigler

Mathematics has no symbols for confused ideas.

~George Stigler

My main graduate training was received at the University of Chicago from which I received the Ph.D. in 1938.

~George Stigler

Even before I came to Chicago, I had gotten interested in the existence of dispersion of prices under conditions which economic theory said would yield a single price.

~George Stigler

I started working and publishing in price theory by 1938.

~George Stigler

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