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25th Anniversary Dinner Response from President Jay L. Nelson

Jay L. Nelson

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25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER RESPONSE

Tuesday, June 3, 1975--7:30 p.m.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS! WOW--I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN. BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW I HAVE WARM BLOOD. IT'S JUST IN AN OLD CONTAINER. 25 YEARS IS A LONG TIME. I OFTEN WONDER HOW MY COLLEAGUES COULD PUT UP WITH ME FOR THAT LONG.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR THE DR. NELSON SALUTATION. I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU WERE ADDRESSING MY SON JERRY. MANY INDIVIDUALS HAVE ADDRESSED ME AS SUCH. WOULD THAT I COULD CLAIM THE DISTINCTION, BUT I BELIEVE I'VE DEVELOPED AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE. I'D MUCH RATHER HAVE PEOPLE SAY--"WHY ISN'T HE?" THAN "HOW THE DEVIL DID HE GET TO BE ONE." MY APOLOGIES TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HOLD THE DISTINCTION.

I AM VERY HONORED THAT GOVERNOR RAMPTON, MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS ARE PARTICIPATING WITH US TONIGHT.

ON ANOTHER OCCASION IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO INTRODUCE THE GOVERNOR SHORTLY AFTER HIS ELECTION TO OFFICE. HE WAS AT OUR DOWNTOWN CAMPUS. THE STATE ROAD COMMISSION WAS USING THE AUDITORIUM TO CONDUCT A SAFETY CONFERENCE. THEY INVITED ME TO EXTEND THE GREETINGS OF THE COLLEGE AND TO INTRODUCE THE GOVERNOR. THE FIRST PART WAS CONCLUDED SATISFACTORILY AND THEN I SAID, "IT'S NOW MY PRIVILEGE TO INTRODUCE THE GOVERNOR OF THE GREAT STATE OF UTAH--GOVERNOR GEORGE DEWEY CLYDE." I BLUSHED, BEGGED HIS PARDON AND SAT DOWN. THE GOVERNOR, IN HIS USUAL RESPONSIVE MANNER, BEGAN BY SAYING, "PRESIDENT SORENSEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN."

MEMORY LANE

WITH YOUR PERMISSION I'D LIKE TO SHARE A FEW OF THE CHOICE EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE OCCURRED DURING OUR JOURNEY DOWN MEMORY LANE. THE LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHED THE COLLEGE IN 1947. CLASSES STARTED IN 1948. THE TOTAL FACULTY CONSISTED OF 16 INDIVIDUALS. MY OFFICE THEN WAS SOMEWHAT COMPARABLE IN SIZE TO MY PRESENT OFFICE. AT ANY RATE, WE WERE ABLE TO HOLD OUR WEEKLY FACULTY MEETINGS IN MY OFFICE. NOW IT'S NECESSARY TO HOLD THE MEETINGS IN THE TECHNOLOGY BUILDING AUDITORIUM.

SPACE IN THE OLD TROY LAUNDRY BUILDING WAS SHARED WITH A DRY CLEANING ESTABLISHMENT--A SUBSIDIARY OF THE BROWN, TERRY AND WOODRUFF CORPORATION. WE WERE CONFRONTED WITH MANY CHALLENGES.

IN CONVERTING THE LAUNDRY TO A SCHOOL WE ONLY HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO ERECT THE WALLS 8 FEET HIGH. THE CEILINGS WERE 14 FEET. BARBERING AND BUSINESS STUDENTS USED TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER BY THROWING NOTES OVER THE WALLS. WE EVEN DRUMMED UP A COUPLE OF ROMANCES THAT WAY.

ONE OF OUR FIRST CHALLENGES WAS TO MAKE A WELDING DEPARTMENT OUT OF THE OLD HORSE BARNS. WE ACTUALLY FILLED UP THE MANURE TROUGHS TO MAKE THE FLOOR LEVEL ENOUGH TO INSTALL THE WELDING EQUIPMENT. THE HAYLOFT UPSTAIRS WAS SOON TRANSFORMED INTO CLASSROOMS.

ONE OF OUR FIRST SHOCKING EXPERIENCES WAS AN EXPLOSION. THE LARGE BOILERS USED TO HEAT WATER FOR THE LAUNDRY WERE USED TO HEAT THE BUILDING. THEY WERE CLOSSAL. WE HAD A GIANT OF A MAN AS BUILDING ENGINEER. HE WOULD LIGHT THE BOILERS MANUALLY WITH A LONG STEMMED MATCH. ONE MORNING HE INSERTED THE FLAME AND THE BOILER EXPLODED.

ALL THE WINDOWS IN THAT SECTION OF THE BUILDING WERE SHATTERED AND THE MAN WAS THROWN AGAINST THE BRICK WALL. FORTUNATELY HE WASN'T SERIOUSLY INJURED.

ONE OF THE MOST TRYING EXPERIENCES WE ENCOUNTERED CAME ABOUT DURING A TREMENDOUS RAIN STORM. THE SEWER PIPES BETWEEN FOURTH AND FIFTH SOUTH ON SIXTH EAST BECAME CLOGGED. THE WATER BACKED UP AND STARTED FLOWING UP THE DRAINS IN THE BASEMENT WHICH HOUSED THE MACHINE SHOP. WITHIN A FEW HOURS WE HAD TWO FEET OF SEWER WATER IN THE BASEMENT--IT REMAINED OVERNIGHT WHILE THE CITY EMPLOYEES DETERMINED THAT THE TREE ROOTS HAD GROWN THROUGH THE ^{sewer} ~~DRAIN~~ PIPES AND CAUSED THE PROBLEM. FOR TWO DAYS THE UNIFORM AT THE COLLEGE WAS HIP BOOTS AND DIVING MASKS. WE HAD A SMELLY GOOD TIME! *for weeks!*

IN THE 19 YEARS THAT WE USED THE OLD CAMPUS EXCLUSIVELY WE DEVELOPED IT INTO AN EXCELLENT FACILITY. WE BROUGHT IT UP TO A RESPECTABLE STANDARD.

THAT DRY CLEANING ESTABLISHMENT TAUGHT US A REAL LESSON. WE LEARNED THAT "PRESSING PROBLEMS" CAN BE IRONED OUT BY DETERMINATION AND DEDICATION.

THREE NAME CHANGES

IN 1959 THE STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION DISSOLVED THE AREA BOARD OF CONTROL AND FORMULATED A 32 MEMBER ADVISORY COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL FUNCTIONS EFFECTIVELY AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ANNIVERSARY DINNER. THAT SAME YEAR THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL WAS CHANGED FROM SALT LAKE AREA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TO SALT LAKE TRADE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE. WE WERE AFFECTIONATELY REFERRED TO AS "TRADE TECH" OR THE COLLEGE FOR SKILLED CRAFTSMEN UNTIL OUR NAME WAS CHANGED AGAIN IN 1967. WE HAVE

BEEN OFFICIALLY CALLED UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT SALT LAKE FOR THE PAST 8 YEARS.

NEW CAMPUS

THIS CAMPUS WAS PURCHASED IN 1960. 74.5 ACRES FOR \$200,000. SOME OF YOU WERE HERE WHEN WE MADE OUR COMMUNITY DEBUT BY PULLING DOWN THE OLD BARN. IT WAS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY IN THE SAME ^{vicinity} ~~AREA~~ AS WE ARE SEATED TONIGHT. ^{That} IT WAS A MEMORABLE OCCASION! THIS BUILDING WAS DEDICATED IN 1967. ^{By Lynn Beckman} SINCE THEN WE'VE CONSTRUCTED THE METAL TRADES BUILDING, THE AUTOMOTIVE BUILDING, THE TECHNOLOGY BUILDING, AND THE COLLEGE CENTER. THE INSTITUTE OF RELIGION WAS CONSTRUCTED EARLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS CAMPUS. A CONSTRUCTION TRADES BUILDING WILL START TO RISE THIS FALL IN THE VICINITY IMMEDIATELY SOUTHWEST OF THIS BUILDING.

PERHAPS THE INCIDENT I RECALL MOST VIVIDLY ON THIS CAMPUS WAS THE DEDICATION OF THE CALVIN L. RAMPTON TECHNOLOGY BUILDING. THE ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTED AN ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT WHICH WAS TO ASTOUND THE AUDIENCE. AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT I GAVE THE SIGNAL AND NOTHING HAPPENED. WE RECEIVED A JOLTING AWARD FROM KALL RADIO--LEMAN LEMON AWARD.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF UTAH TECH HAS BEEN A GREAT CHALLENGE BUT A VERY SATISFYING EXPERIENCE. THOSE WHOSE TENURE TOTAL 20 OR MORE YEARS HAVE SEEN THE GROWTH SKYROCKET FROM 1,800 ENTHUSIASTIC STUDENTS IN 1955 TO 6,000 STUDENTS LAST FALL.

GOVERNOR J. BRACKEN LEE

GOVERNOR LEE PLAYED A DEVIL'S ADVOCATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLLEGE. WE ALL KNOW THAT HE VETOED THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE COLLEGE

WHEN HE BECAME GOVERNOR. THE AREA BOARD OF CONTROL MET WITH HIM MANY TIMES DURING HIS TENURE IN OFFICE--WITHOUT GREAT FINANCIAL SATISFACTION I MIGHT ADD. A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO I WAS ATTENDING A BOSSES BREAKFAST AT HOTEL UTAH. AS I SAT DOWN I NOTICED GOVERNOR LEE AT A TABLE NEAR BY. HE SMILED, STOOD UP, AND WALKED TOWARD ME. WE EXCHANGED GREETINGS AND AFTER A BRIEF CONVERSATION HE SAID TO ME, "YOUR COLLEGE HAS COME A LONG WAY--YOU'VE SUCCEEDED IN SPITE OF ME, HAVEN'T YOU?" NATURALLY THAT ~~WILL BE~~^{is} ONE OF MY CHOICE MEMORIES.

I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT MEMBERS OF THIS GREAT COLLEGE, FACULTY AND STAFF ARE TRULY COMMITTED TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. WE BELIEVE THE MAJOR THRUST OF THE TOTAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THEIR LIFE'S WORK. OBVIOUSLY, WE DON'T THINK THIS SHOULD BE THE ONLY THRUST. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN WORK, BUT WE RECOGNIZE, TOO, THAT THERE IS REALLY NO TRULY GOOD LIFE WITHOUT A GOOD JOB. ~~I AM PROUD THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RETAIN THE IDENTITY OF THIS GREAT COLLEGE. WE PLEDGE TO YOU THAT IT IS OUR INTENTION TO~~ RETAIN THE VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL NATURE OF THE INSTITUTION. IT IS TRULY A GREAT VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE. IT IS MAKING A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIVES OF THE STUDENTS WHO ATTEND. IT IS MAKING A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE GREAT STATE OF UTAH. THOSE WHO COMPRISE THE FACULTY AND STAFF ARE UNUSUALLY CAPABLE AND DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS. TOGETHER WE'RE A GREAT TEAM.

THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COLLEGE MARKS THE CULMINATION OF A DREAM OF MANY YEARS BY MANY INDIVIDUALS. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED DEVELOP AND PERPETUATE THIS

DREAM. AND SO, ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE COLLEGE LET ME EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARDS, MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS AND THOSE DISTINGUISHED INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE PROVIDED THE ASSISTANCE, THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE COLLEGE.

AND NOW MAY I EXPRESS MY DEEP GRATITUDE TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HONORING ME TONIGHT. I'M OVERWHELMED AT HAVING A BUILDING NAMED AFTER ME IN RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE WHICH I HAVE RENDERED TO A COLLEGE I TRULY LOVE. AND A PORTRAIT--WELL, IT'S SOMETHING I NEVER DREAMED OF. AND ^{finally} MAY I ^{love and} EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO EACH OF YOU FOR SHARING WITH THE NELSON FAMILY IN THE SALUTE WHICH YOU HAVE PROVIDED US, THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.