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UTC Summer Graduation Exercises

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UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT SALT LAKE
SUMMER GRADUATION EXERCISES

JAY L. NELSON, PRESIDENT

AUGUST 25, 1978
10 A.M.

LAST SUMMER I WAS IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ATTENDING A VO-ED CONFERENCE, AND I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT A VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL CENTER. I PROMISED THE DEAN OF INSTRUCTION THAT I'D CALL HIM BEFORE LEAVING ATLANTA SO THE MORNING I WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE, I PICKED UP THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY AND DIALED THE NUMBER. IT SURPRISED ME WHEN THE OPERATOR'S VOICE CAME IN ON THE LINE AND SAID, "THAT WILL BE 90 CENTS, PLEASE."

I WAS FEELING REAL PERT AND IN A JOKING MOOD THAT MORNING AND COMMENTED, "90 CENTS! IN UTAH, WE CAN CALL HELL AND BACK FOR 90 CENTS."

SHE SAID, "IN UTAH, THAT'S A LOCAL NUMBER, SIR."

BOY, IF I'D KNOWN THAT I WOULD BE ON THIS JOB FOR 30 YEARS, I'D HAVE TAKEN BETTER CARE OF MYSELF! IT HAS BEEN A VERY SATISFYING EXPERIENCE TO WATCH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLLEGE DURING THESE PAST THIRTY YEARS. IT HAS GROWN FROM A SMALL STUDENT BODY IN AN OLD LAUNDRY BUILDING TO THE FOURTH LARGEST STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTION IN UTAH. WE REALLY HAVE ONE OF THE FINEST TECHNICAL COLLEGES IN AMERICA--FACULTY WISE AND CURRICULUM WISE.

COMMUNICATIONS SOMETIMES GO AWRY! I HAD MY BREAKDOWN THE OTHER NIGHT. I CAME HOME LATE AT NIGHT AND HERE WAS A NOTE ON MY PILLOW FROM MY WIFE. IT SAID REGARDLESS OF WHAT TIME YOU COME IN, CALL 466-7380. SO I DIALED THE NUMBER AND A RATHER SLEEPY VOICE AT MIDNIGHT SAID, "YES." I ASKED, "IS THIS 466-7380?" AND HE SAID, "NO, IT IS NOT." I LOOKED AT THE NOTE AND SCRATCHED MY HEAD AND SAID, "ARE YOU SURE THIS IS NOT 466-7380?" AND IN A RATHER PLEADING VOICE HE SAID, "FRIEND, HAVE I EVER LIED TO YOU BEFORE?"

SOMEHOW I FELT THAT I WAS PRICKED BY THE SPLINTERED FRACTURES OF COMMUNICATION.

CERTAINLY, TODAY I'M HOPING THAT OUR COMMUNICATIONS WON'T BE SPLINTERED OR FRACTURED BECAUSE I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SUCCESS. IT'S THE DREAM OF EVERY YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN IN AMERICA TO BE A SUCCESS . . . TO HAVE PARENTS, TEACHERS, FRIENDS LOOK UPON YOU WITH PRIDE AND SATISFACTION. WE ARE ALL HOPING TO FIND OUR DREAMS REALIZED WHEN WE COME TO THE END OF THE RAINBOW--WE ARE ALL HOPING TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD.

THERE ARE DOZENS OF ITEMS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS--TODAY I'D LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THREE: PLANNING--WORK--DESIRABLE CHARACTER TRAITS.

THINGS JUST DON'T HAPPEN--THEY'RE PLANNED! PLANNING IS THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF MANAGEMENT. TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS IN LIFE WE NEED A PLAN. NOTHING IN LIFE IS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT PLANNING AND PREPARATION. THE SPACESHIPS WHICH TRAVEL AROUND THE EARTH, TO THE MOON AND DISTANT PARTS OF THE UNIVERSE, WOULD NOT BE LEAVING THE GROUND IF IT WERE NOT FOR VISION, PLANNING AND PREPARATION. REMEMBER THINGS JUST DON'T HAPPEN, THEY'RE PLANNED. OUR SUCCESS IS CONTINGENT UPON A PLAN AND OUR DESIRE TO ACHIEVE IT. LET ME ASSURE YOU THERE IS NO MAGIC FORMULA FOR SUCCESS, BUT IF YOU WILL ESTABLISH A PLAN AND WORK DILIGENTLY TO ACCOMPLISH IT ONE STEP AT A TIME YOU'LL EVENTUALLY REACH YOUR DESTINATION. EACH YEAR HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUALS START OUT TO CLIMB MOUNT TIMPANOGAS AND GREAT NUMBERS ARE SUCCESSFUL. THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO REACH THE TOP. SOME ATTEMPT TO BLAZE THEIR OWN TRAIL RIGHT UP THE FACE OF THE MOUNTAIN. IT'S DIFFICULT THAT WAY BUT IT CAN BE DONE. ANOTHER WAY IS TO APPROACH THE HIGHEST PINNACLE FROM THE AMERICAN FORK SIDE. THE CUSTOMARY ROUTE, HOWEVER, AND THE MOST TRAVELED ROUTE STARTS AT ASPEN GROVE. IT'S EASIER TO FOLLOW THE TRAIL THAT HAS BEEN CUT AND BLAZED BY THE EXPERTS TO THE

12,000 FOOT PINNACLE. BUT, BY ANY ROUTE IT TAKES DETERMINATION TO ACCOMPLISH THE OBJECTIVE. THERE IS NO EASY TRAIL TO THE TOP JUST AS THERE IS NO EASY ROAD TO SUCCESS.

YOUR PLAN SHOULD BE THE BLUEPRINT OF THE THINGS YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE. REMEMBER, ALL THE GREAT FRONTIERS HAVE NOT BEEN CONQUERED. WE'RE LIVING IN A WONDERFUL AGE! THROUGHOUT MY ENTIRE LIFE I HAVE HEARD COMMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT ALL THE INVENTIONS HAD BEEN THOUGHT OF AND ALL THE DISCOVERIES HAD BEEN MADE AND THAT ALL THE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE MONEY HAVE PASSED. TO EXPRESS IT IN THE VERNACULAR OF THE DAY, "THAT'S A LOT OF POPPY COCK." I ASSURE YOU THIS IS ABSOLUTELY NOT SO! WE'RE LIVING IN A FANTASTIC AGE--AN AGE OF MECHANIZATION, AN AGE OF AUTOMATION, AN AGE OF SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT, AN AGE OF MOON LANDINGS, AND AN AGE OF COMPUTERIZATION. DOES THAT SOUND LIKE ALL THE DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE? THE OPPORTUNITIES TODAY ARE GREATER THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN HISTORY. WE HAVE MADE MORE TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS AND ADVANCED MORE NEW IDEAS IN THE LAST TWO DECADES THAN IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

IN MAKING YOUR PLANS DON'T HESITATE TO SEEK GUIDANCE FROM YOUR TEACHERS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS. BUT DON'T BE TOO TRUSTING AND TOO NAIVE.

YOU REMEMBER WHEN THE ASTRONAUTS CAME BACK FROM THE MOON TRIP, THEY BROUGHT SOME MOON ROCKS. AND THEY PROMISED SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES THEY COULD STUDY THE ROCKS. THEY PLANNED TO GIVE EACH ONE OF THE DESIGNATED UNIVERSITIES A ROCK FOR STUDY AND EXPERIMENTATION.

WELL, BY THE TIME THEY GOT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AND KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, THEY WERE OUT OF ROCKS. THEY DIDN'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT THE GEOLOGISTS SO SOME OF THE BOYS FROM NASA DOWN THERE IN THE HOUSTON AREA WENT OUT INTO THE GRAZING LAND CLOSE TO HOUSTON AND THEY FOUND A COUPLE OF UNUSUAL LOOKING ROCKS AND THEY SENT ONE OF THEM TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AND ONE TO KANSAS STATE.

WELL, THE GEOLOGISTS JUST WENT CRAZY STUDYING THOSE ROCKS. AND THEY MADE NOTES GALORE AND THEN THEY GOT TOGETHER AND COMPARED ALL THOSE NOTES AND THEN THEY HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND THEY SAID, "WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE THE MOST SENSATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT'S BEEN MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THIS WHOLE PROJECT. THEY SAID, "OUR STUDY OF THESE ROCKS REVEALS THAT WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE COW DID JUMP OVER THE MOON."

EVERY GOOD PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE AN EDUCATIONAL PROCESS. TODAY IS EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE INCLUDED THIS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN YOUR PLANS. AND FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, EVERY GOOD EDUCATIONAL PLAN SHOULD PREPARE AN INDIVIDUAL FOR HIS LIFE'S WORK. IT'S MY OPINION THAT A MAJOR THRUST OF THE TOTAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THEIR LIFE'S WORK. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE STEERED INTO STUDIES THAT WILL LEAD TO EMPLOYMENT.

DR. T. H. BELL, COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF UTAH AND A FORMER UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, WAS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT OUR GRADUATION EXERCISES A YEAR AGO. HE REPEATED A PHRASE WHICH WAS HIGHLY PUBLICIZED THAT HE MADE AT A NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR PRESIDENTS OF LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES. HE SAID, "I THINK WE SHOULD VOCATIONALIZE LIBERAL EDUCATION AND LIBERALIZE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION." HE SAID HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCING THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS THAT THEIR SCHOOLS SHOULD BE MORE PRACTICAL.

HE CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES MUST CONCENTRATE ON OFFERING STUDENTS SALABLE SKILLS.

"THE COLLEGE THAT DEVOTES ITSELF TOTALLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY TO THE LIBERAL ARTS TODAY IS JUST KIDDING ITSELF. TO SEND YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN INTO TODAY'S WORLD ARMED ONLY WITH ARISTOTLE AND HEMINGWAY IS LIKE SENDING A LAMB INTO A LION'S DEN. IT IS TO DELUDE THEM AS WELL AS OURSELVES.

"EDUCATION IS PREPARATION FOR LIFE, AND LIVING WITHOUT MEANINGFUL WORK IS JUST NOT LIVING LIFE TO ITS FULL MEANING AND PURPOSE." CERTAINLY WE AGREE THAT EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT DOES NOT REPRESENT THE TOTAL EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY.

OBVIOUSLY, I 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 NO TRULY GOOD LIFE WITHOUT A GOOD JOB.

THE UNITED STATES IS A JOB ORIENTED SOCIETY, WITHOUT A JOB, YOU'RE A NOBODY. THE WORK ETHIC HAS MADE AMERICA GREAT, AND I FEEL A STRONG COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE AND REVITALIZE IT AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

ONE OF THE GRATIFYING EXPERIENCES THAT THE PRESIDENT OF A COLLEGE ENJOYS IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO FORMER STUDENTS. THIS SPRING AN ELECTRICITY GRADUATE OF 18 YEARS AGO STOPPED BY MY OFFICE TO SAY "HELLO." HE INFORMED ME THAT HE WAS NOW AN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR AND VERY SUCCESSFUL AND THAT HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE TRAINING HE RECEIVED AT THE COLLEGE. IN TALKING ABOUT HIS FAMILY HE BOASTFULLY SAID:

MY DAUGHTER HAS HER MASTER'S

MY SON HIS PH.D.

BUT FATHER IS THE ONLY ONE

WHO HAS A J-O-B.

WE HOPE THE CAREER YOU'VE SELECTED WILL BE A REWARDING ONE. FOR MOST OF US, SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN OUR OCCUPATION IS DEPENDENT ON ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS:

1. DO YOU ENJOY YOUR WORK? I ASKED SOMEONE THE OTHER DAY IF HE ENJOYED HIS WORK. HE SAID, "I LOVE IT--I CAN CURL UP AND GO TO SLEEP RIGHT BESIDE IT." WELL, THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF ENJOYMENT WE'RE REFERRING TO.
2. WILL THE JOB REIMBURSE YOU SUFFICIENTLY TO LIVE A MODERATE LIFE?

3. DOES YOUR JOB MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND?

4. CAN YOU BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS AFFIRMATIVELY, YOU ARE HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

YOUR SUCCESS ISN'T GOING TO COME AS A RESULT OF LUCK OR GOOD FORTUNE! IT WILL COME AS A RESULT OF PLANNING AND WORK. I HEARD SOMEONE REITERATE AN OLE STATEMENT JUST RECENTLY--"THE HARDER I WORK THE LUCKIER I SEEM TO BE."

THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE WHO . . .

GO TO WORK AS LATE AS THEY CAN

GO HOME AS EARLY AS THEY CAN

DO AS LITTLE AS THEY CAN

AND SELDOM GET OFF THEIR CAN.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO BE A PROFESSIONAL IN WHATEVER RESPONSIBILITY YOU ARE ENGAGED. A PROFESSIONAL IS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO KNOWS HE HAS THE ABILITY TO DO THE JOB AND HE KNOWS THAT HE KNOWS. HE BREATHES CONFIDENCE, PROFESSIONALISM DOESN'T REFER TO A CATEGORY BUT RATHER TO QUALITY. AND YOU KNOW, SCHOOL IS NEVER OUT FOR THE PROFESSIONAL--YOU CAN'T THROW AN EGG IN THE HENHOUSE TODAY AND EXPECT IT TO CROW TOMORROW! CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION AND REMEMBER WHAT THOMAS MANN SAID--THE GREATEST EDUCATION YOU CAN ACQUIRE IS THE DESIRE TO . . .

DO WHAT YOU OUGHT TO DO

WHEN YOU OUGHT TO DO IT

WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.

I HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU WILL HAVE THE COURAGE TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AND SEEK FAME AND FORTUNE: HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD REMEMBER WHAT CONFUCIUS SAY, "MAN WHO GO OUT TO SET THE WORLD ON FIRE, SOMETIMES COME HOME FOR MORE MATCHES." I'M ENCOURAGING YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION

IN OUR EVENING PROGRAMS.

IN THE 28 YEARS THAT I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DIRECT UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT SALT LAKE, I HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO AN INDIVIDUAL'S SUCCESS. MY ALL AMERICAN CHARACTER TRAITS INCLUDE

1. ATTITUDE--A POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS ONE THAT SEES THE GOOD IN LIFE. AFTER YEARS OF OBSERVATION I CONCLUDE THAT ATTITUDE AND WILLINGNESS TO DO THE JOB ARE EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR SKILL. OF COURSE, SKILL IS IMPORTANT, AND WE HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED THE BASICS OF IT HERE, BUT ONCE YOU HAVE PERFECTED THE SKILL, THEN IT'S YOUR ATTITUDE THAT WILL LIKELY MAKE OR BREAK YOU. IT'S LIKE THE OLD STORY OF ONE LADY TALKING TO ANOTHER, SAYING, "HOW LONG WAS YOUR LAST COOK WITH YOU?" THE RESPONSE, "SHE NEVER WAS WITH US. SHE WAS AGAINST US FROM THE START." BELIEVE ME, ATTITUDE COUNTS.

2. COOPERATION. INDIVIDUALLY WE CAN DO LITTLE . . . COOPERATIVELY WE CAN ACHIEVE GREATNESS. UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS MY BEST EXAMPLE. WE ARE EXPECTED TO WORK TOGETHER. THIS INSTITUTION IS THE PERSONIFICATION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNING BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, LEGISLATORS, AND DEDICATED EMPLOYEES.

3. INITIATIVE IS THE CHARACTERISTIC OF DOING THINGS WITHOUT BEING TOLD. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO DO THE JOB ONE WAY--TRY SOME OTHER METHOD. AS MY OLE PAPPY USED TO SAY, "THERE'S LOTS OF WAYS TO SKIN A RABBIT."

4. ENTHUSIASM IS A TRAIT WE ALL ADMIRE. IT'S INSPIRING TO BE AROUND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OPTIMISTIC AND EAGER TO GET THE JOB DONE. ENTHUSIASM IS CONTAGIOUS. GREAT LEADERS USUALLY EXEMPLIFY THAT TRAIT.

5. DEPENDABILITY IS ONE OF OUR MOST SIGNIFICANT HUMAN TRAITS. WHEN YOU TELL SOMEONE WE WILL DO A JOB--WE ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THE RESPONSIBILITY. PEOPLE EXPECT US TO LIVE UP TO OUR COMMITMENTS. ABOUT THE BEST COMPLIMENT AN INDIVIDUAL CAN PAY ME IS TO SAY--HIS WORD IS HIS BOND.

THOSE CHARACTER TRAITS AREN'T GOING TO GUARANTEE YOUR SUCCESS ON THE JOB, BUT I ASSURE YOU THEY'RE GOING TO CUT A BIG SWATH. LET ME REMIND YOU THAT ABILITY IS USUALLY ACCEPTED PROVIDING YOU RELATE AND COOPERATE WITH YOUR FELLOW EMPLOYEES.

IF THE TRAITS I'VE ENUMERATED AREN'T PART OF YOUR CHARACTER PATTERN, I'D ENCOURAGE YOU TO INCORPORATE THEM.

IT'S BEEN A REWARDING EXPERIENCE FOR ME TO SERVE IN THE CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE. IT'S BEEN EQUALLY GRATIFYING TO COUNSEL WITH STUDENTS AND SUGGEST A FORMULA THAT WILL HELP ASSUME SUCCESS. I FREQUENTLY USE AN EXAMPLE FROM PAUL DUNN'S BOOK ENTITLED ANXIOUSLY ENGAGED. HE TELLS ABOUT A RETIRED BUSINESS EXECUTIVE FRIEND OF HIS WHO HAS ASKED THE SECRET OF HIS GREAT SUCCESS. HE REPLIED THAT IT COULD ALL BE SUMMED UP IN THREE WORDS--"AND THEN SOME." I DISCOVERED AT AN EARLY AGE, HE SAID, THAT MOST OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AVERAGE PEOPLE AND TOP PEOPLE CAN BE EXPLAINED IN THOSE THREE WORDS. THE TOP PEOPLE DO WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM--AND THEN SOME. THEY ARE THOUGHTFUL AND CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS--AND THEN SOME. THEY MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FAIRLY AND SQUARELY--AND THEN SOME, THEY ARE GOOD FRIENDS TO THEIR FRIENDS--AND THEN SOME. THEY CAN BE COUNTED ON IN AN EMERGENCY--AND THEN SOME. AND SO IT IS WHEN YOU DO WHAT YOU'VE CONTRACTED TO DO--AND THEN SOME, THEN YOUR EMPLOYER PAYS IN FULL --AND THEN SOME.

EXCELLENT IDEA--I HOPE WE'LL ALL SUBSCRIBE TO IT.

AMONG THE THINGS YOU HAVE HEARD TODAY, I HOPE YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO MAGIC FORMULA FOR SUCCESS. SUCCESS OCCURS WHEN PREPARATION AND OPPORTUNITY MEET. THE PRESCRIBED METHOD IS TO MAKE A PLAN AND THEN SET OUT TO BRING PREPARATION AND OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER.

ANY GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT REQUIRES WORK, YES WORK--WORK! ALEXANDER HAMILTON, ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT STATESMEN, SAID, "ALL THE GENIUS I HAVE IS MERELY THE RESULT OF LABOR."

I CANNOT SAY THAT THIS WORLD WILL BECOME LESS COMPLICATED IN THE YEARS AHEAD, BUT I CAN SAY THAT THE DETERMINATION AND ABILITY THAT YOU GRADUATES HAVE DISPLAYED IN EARNING YOUR CERTIFICATES IS SOMETHING THAT GIVES ME EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND AND COPE WITH ALL THE NEW COMPLEXITIES THAT TOMORROW BRINGS.

AS I INTIMATED IN THE MOUNT TIMPANOGOS ILLUSTRATION, YOU GRADUATES HAVE CLIMBED A MOUNTAIN. BUT IS THAT ENOUGH? CERTAINLY, THE CLIMB HAS REWARDED YOU WITH CONFIDENCE. BUT REACHING A SUMMIT GIVES AN INDIVIDUAL A BETTER PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS. AND WHAT DO WE SEE? WE SEE MORE MOUNTAINS, AND SEEING THEM ENCOURAGES US TO FEEL THEIR SUMMITS BENEATH OUR FEET. IF YOU WILL USE YOUR INITIATIVE--DEVELOP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, BE ENTHUSIASTIC, BE DEPENDABLE, AND WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH YOUR ASSOCIATES YOU'LL BE WELL ON YOUR WAY TO A HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL LIFE.

LET ME CAUTION YOU, HOWEVER, IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE TO SUCCEED AND ACHIEVE THAT YOU WILL NOT FORGET TO ENJOY LIFE. THE MOST SUCCESSFUL AND WELL ADJUSTED INDIVIDUALS I HAVE MET ARE PEOPLE WHO WORK DILIGENTLY, PLAY CONSISTENTLY, AND SERVE THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, CHURCH, AND COMMUNITIES.

THERE'S AN OLD THEORY--LIVE EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST, AND ONE DAY YOU'LL BE RIGHT.

TWELVE YEARS AGO I JOINED A VERY SPECIAL CLUB, SEVERAL OF THE FACULTY ARE MEMBERS--THE CORONARY HEART CLUB--I'M NOT RECOMMENDING IT. DURING THE RECUPERATION PERIOD MY DOCTOR USED TO PASS OUT LITTLE PHILOSOPHICAL TIDBITS. I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN ONE LITTLE GEM. HE SAID, "WE'RE ON THIS EARTH FOR SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME LET'S NOT HURRY, LET'S NOT WORRY, AND LET'S TAKE THE TIME TO SMELL THE FLOWERS AS WE GO ALONG."

MY ANCESTORS USED TO PRACTICE THAT PHILOSOPHY. YOU KNOW IF MY GRANDFATHER MISSED A TRAIN, YOU KNOW WHAT HE'D DO--HE'D JUST CATCH ONE

THE NEXT DAY. IF MY FATHER MISSED A PLANE THE WORLD HADN'T COME TO AN END. BELIEVE ME IT HADN'T--THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER ONE COMING ALONG. NOT ME, IF I MISS ONE SECTION OF A REVOLVING DOOR, THE WHOLE DAY'S SHOT TO HELL. YOU'RE THAT WAY, TOO.

SOMEONE SAID THE OTHER DAY A MAN GOES THROUGH LIFE LIKE HE'S TRYING TO READ PLAYBOY MAGAZINE WITH HIS WIFE TURNING THE PAGES.

WELL, NOW THAT RETIREMENT DAYS ARE APPROACHING PERHAPS I'LL HAVE TIME TO FOLLOW THE DOCTOR'S ADMONITION---LET'S NOT HURRY, LET'S NOT WORRY AND LET'S TAKE TIME TO SMELL THE FLOWERS AS WE GO ALONG.

BEFORE I START THAT PROCESS THOUGH, I'D LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS, LEGISLATORS AND CITIZENS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WE'VE ACHIEVED AT UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

AFTER HAVING BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE COLLEGE SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1948, I'M FINALLY GRADUATING, TOO. I'VE REACHED THAT MAGIC AGE THAT SPELLS RETIREMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, THIS PROBABLY WILL BE MY LAST OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND CONDUCT A UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRADUATION EXERCISE. MY FEELING ABOUT THE COLLEGE CAN BE SUMMED UP BY THIS STORY. AND AS YOU RECEIVE YOUR CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS, AND DEGREES TODAY, I BELIEVE YOU'LL SENSE THE FEELING EXPRESSED.

IN ARABIA IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR HORSEMEN TO RIDE AT NIGHT TO ELIMINATE THE DISCOMFORT OF THE DESERT HEAT. ONE EVENING A BAND OF ARABIANS WERE RIDING TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM THEIR TRIBAL LEADER TO THE RULERS IN A DISTANT CITY. APPROACHING THE DESERT, THEY RODE THROUGH A LONG, NARROW CANYON. THE WHITE STONE WALLS LOOMED A HUNDRED FEET ABOVE THE DESERT SANDS.

AS THE RIDERS NEARED THE END OF THE CANYON, A VOICE IN THE DARKNESS CALLED, "HALT!"

IMPELLED TO OBEY, THE HORSEMEN CAME TO A HALT. THEY WERE THEN COMMANDED TO DISMOUNT. AND THEY DID.

NEXT, THEY WERE INSTRUCTED TO BEND DOWN, PICK UP A HANDFUL OF PEBBLES AND PLACE THEM IN THEIR POCKETS. THEN THEY WERE ADMONISHED NOT TO LOOK AT THE PEBBLES UNTIL DAWN, WITH THE PROMISE THAT THE SURPRISE THEY FELT WOULD BRING JOY TO THEIR HEARTS AND ALSO SORROW AND DISAPPOINTMENT.

CURIOSITY WAS DIFFICULT TO RESTRAIN, AT THE BREAK OF DAWN THEY EAGERLY REMOVED THE PEBBLES FROM THEIR POCKETS. TO THEIR UTTER AMAZEMENT THEY HELD IN THEIR HANDS NOT PEBBLES BUT DIAMONDS, RUBIES AND PEARLS. EACH IN HIS OWN WAY WAS ELATED THAT HE HAD TAKEN SOME BUT SORRY HE HAD NOT TAKEN MORE.

AS I STAND BEFORE YOU GRADUATES AND AS I HAVE STOOD BEFORE THE STUDENTBODY AND FEEL YOUR WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP AND ADMIRE YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND DETERMINATION, AS I REVIEW THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR ALUMNI, AND AS I LEARN OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT THEY ARE MAKING IN INDUSTRY, MY FEARS FOR THE FUTURE VANISH.

THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE BETTER INFORMED AND MUCH MORE ALERT TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD THAN WE WERE WHEN WE WERE THEIR AGE.

YOU ARE A TREMENDOUS GROUP AND I'M GRATEFUL THAT MY RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE PERMITTED ME TO RUB SHOULDERS WITH YOU.