

EXCERPTS FROM GOVERNOR CALVIN L. RAMPTON'S SPEECH  
AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER HONORING  
PRESIDENT JAY L. NELSON

June 3, 1975

Jay, I would like to commend you on the basis of the years of association that we have had together in this field. I would like to commend you not only for your dedication to technical education but also for your ability in the field of educational administration. Largely as a result of your efforts, this institution has grown from that leased building on Fourth South and Sixth East, which we had to wash the windows before we could even get the light in so that we could see inside, to this beautiful structure.

If there ever was an institution in this entire State that had the staff of one man on it, it is this institution. I think it might have been more appropriate rather than to name this building the Jay L. Nelson Administration Building to name this the Nelson Technical College.

Aside from this general success I have had a personal concern with many graduates of this school. Over the past several years we have employed nearly 100 from <sup>Utah Tech. Coll.</sup> ~~this school~~. Some of these have moved on to other jobs in our industry, but the majority are still with us and form the backbone of our company's strength.

<sup>COMPANY'S</sup>  
Our principal reason for existence is to service the machines we sell -- to see that our customers receive the value they expect from their investment. Of our organization of 350 people here in Salt Lake City, over 2/3 are involved in this activity. Many of our present managers have attended and graduated from this school, including our Director of Service, our Salt Lake Service Manager, Our Service Development Manager, our Vernal Operations Manager, our Used Equipment Coordinator, our Training

Instructor, several Supervisors and many Field Servicemen. Our principal asset as a company is our people and many of them came to us from where you now sit. You can see why we appreciate this great school.

You young men and women here today are not "average". You have trained yourselves to be valuable through your skills. Those responsible have certified to this by approving the degrees or certificates you will receive. Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." Your investment here will pay real dividends.

Up to this point you have lived under a more or less structured schedule with definite requirements for you to meet. After achieving this graduation your lives will be less structured and your future progress will depend on your own

self discipline and motivation.

I suppose all commencement speakers say, "Keep on growing - don't go to seed, let this be a beginning not an ending." This is good advice, but many young people who hear the speeches, pay no heed and by the time they are middle aged are absolutely "mummified." Even some of the people who make the speeches are "mummified." We might ask why? Well, this advice is good - but not easy to follow. As we mature many of us tend to progressively narrow the scope and variety of our lives. Of all the interests we might pursue, we settle on a few. We develop set ways of doing things. Our prison is imposed by ourselves. We must be aware of our identity and our worth and find ways of fulfillment. This fulfillment -- finding a meaning and purpose to life is one of the hardest tests we face. When we falter, discouragement is constantly ready to

prevent our moving ahead. This problem is as old as mankind. An unknown author wrote these melancholy lines:

"To Whom can I speak today?

The gentle man has perished

The violent man has access to everybody.

To Whom can I speak today?

The inequity that smites the land

It has no end.

To Whom can I speak today?

There are no righteous men

The earth is surrendered to criminals."

There are many today who might express themselves by those lines, but the poem was not written in this century, but rather 4,000 years ago in the time of Egypt's Middle Kingdom. The world did not end -- progress did not stop -- despite this man's discouragement, and today

the opportunity for a happy and productive life has never been better. Happiness that can come from unselfish involvement in work is not well understood. Many work only because they have to eat and earn enough to take care of their basic needs. Usually with that attitude that is <sup>about</sup> all that happens. Others find that their work can provide a stimulating opportunity for growth and development. They soon discover they are the ones who gain from their contribution and their success, and that a great deal of life's joy and satisfaction comes from a job well done. We have all seen the astonishing sources of energy available to those who enjoy and find purpose in what they are doing.

John Luther, a noted author, wrote a booklet about a discovery he made late in his life. After finally accomplishing a long-time goal of taking a two-month vacation, he found the first 3 weeks at Cape Cod to be perfect. The 4th week, however,

an unaccountable restlessness set in and by the 5th week, he felt something was obviously wrong. After considerable self-examination he discovered that what he needed was his work, which he concluded was the "main course" - the meat and substance of his life.

Recreation is the "dessert". It is best in modest portions at the end of a good meal. When we try to substitute the dessert for the meal itself, we lose our taste for it.

I remember my first employer telling me that I would spend most of my life working and advising me to find something that I enjoyed. I have sincerely tried to follow this counsel and found that a great deal of the purpose and substance of my life comes from my work. It is what makes possible the providing of the things I wish for my family and it supports all the things I do in community, religious and recreational pursuits.

I subscribe to Henry Van Dyke's statement,

"This is my work; my blessing not my doom."

You have selected professions for which you have aptitudes and have invested your time and money to reach this point. You have competence in fields of Business, Welding, Auto Mechanics, Marketing, Drafting, Machine Shop, Electronics, Printing, Barbering, Cosmetology and Commercial Art. These skills are vital to the economy of a community. Make them pay now by entering your working life with enthusiasm.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Every calling is great when greatly pursued." We should all pursue our work with dedication.

As concerns dedication, I think that each of us would agree that our neighbor should be more dedicated; the employer believes employees should be more dedicated to their work; older

people believe young people should be more dedicated. We have a real moral zeal when we think of the standards the other fellow ought to live up to. A Patriot once said, "I have already given two cousins to the war and I stand ready to sacrifice my wife's brother."

Don't expect others to lead the way -- be a leader yourself.

I have learned that those things that are tough to attain are the things most worthwhile in this life.

Last week I spent several days in the primitive area of the Wind-River Mountains of Wyoming with four of my sons.

This is high country and rugged. We backpacked more than ten miles over trails and cross country into an area few people reach.

We didn't see another person for three days and had several lakes and a beautiful fly fishing stream all to ourselves.

The good fishing and beauty of this country would be appreciated by anyone at any time I am sure -- but what made it most rewarding to us was the accomplishment of reaching it after real planning and effort.

Those things that are tough to attain are the most worthwhile in this life. Don't back away from them.

We have heard a great deal about the Bicentennial this year - but have we learned ~~a great deal~~ <sup>much</sup> about what makes our country different? For one thing we are an unfinished nation and always will be. We are proud of our accomplishments without considering the job completed. Another, we are critical of ourselves, maybe too critical. Yet the self-criticism brings corrections and corrections keep us moving toward higher standards. Some people say we are "materialistic". We do like goods. We produce them more abundantly than any other nation on earth. We have money to buy them with, which is the end result of our "materialistic" system, and money to assist nations less fortunate than we.

Our system promotes change and encourages

it. We are practical and our business system is still vigorous and flexible. Yet we have plenty of things to work at -- inflation, energy, need for new jobs, need for more capital investment, need for a boost in productivity, plus raising the standard of living for the <sup>UNFORTUNATE</sup> ~~poor~~. We are a diverse people and very individualistic, but our country is strong and vigorous and the outlook for our future is good.

Our country in recent years has gone through a real tension between liberty and equality.

"All men are created equal -----

The right to life, liberty -----"

These are described as self-evident truths - and we all subscribe to them.

They are interrelated, but curiously don't move forward together, rather they are often balanced against each other.

EQUALITY  $\vee$  LIBERTY

In 1976 the pendulum swung far toward the side of equality. Government has become the enforcer of equality in many areas. The emphasis has turned from equality of opportunity to equality of results. This has not been done without the loss of some personal liberty. There are signs that the pendulum is starting back to find a new, more realistic balance between equality and personal liberty.

All of us have our <sup>lives</sup> ~~lives~~ affected by <sup>the</sup> regulation.

In safety, employment, education, and so on.

Most of our products must meet standards set by

regulatory agencies. This trend is world wide as government planners tell us more and more what to do. I recently heard a slightly exaggerated story that in some of the new Japanese cars the buzzer won't shut off - until you remove your shoes.

Regulations are needed, but as citizens of this country we must be cautious of giving up personal liberties at any cost.

As you look to your future life, be willing to try - don't be too afraid that you might fail. All of us have seen babies as they attempt to walk. At first they meet with constant failure. Repeated failures such as this would shatter us as adults, but babies do learn to walk. During this time of greatest failure, man learns at a faster rate than he ever will again.

Being overly concerned with security could hinder your progress. Don't be afraid to take a

chance.

There is a true story about a baseball player *of* <sup>MAN</sup> ~~of 50~~ years ago that I find stimulating. This is because I have always loved baseball, but I think you too would enjoy the message of this story, it's title - "Don't Die On Third"

It was 50 years ago, when the Detroit Tigers were playing the team from Cleveland. The score was a tie. It was the last half of the ninth, and two men were out. The fate of the game rested with Moriarty, the white-bloused figure shuttled back and fourth at third base. As the decisive moment approached, Tigers and Naps stood up at their benches, and 18,000 spectators bent forward in tense expectancy. Moriarty was on third.

He had come there in the ordinary way. At bat he had hit the ball and run to first. The next batter had bunted and sacrificed to move Moriarty



on to second. Then a "long fly ball" had advanced him to third. There he stood, alert in every nerve, his powerful running legs, his quick eye and quicker brain holding the fate of the game.

Much as it meant to have advanced that far, third base runs are not marked up on the scoreboard. Third base is not a destination - it is the last way station on the road "home." The world is full of third bases. To leave school, to earn your college degree, to enter a profession, is only to start toward third base. To get the job you want, even to become the head of your business, is merely to reach third base. Third base is opportunity, and opportunity is not arrival, it is only another point of departure. Attain the White House itself, and you have only got as far as third base. The test of all you have is yet to come. No time for self-applause at third, -- many a promi-

sing run has died there. And there stood Moriarty. If he failed, it was not alone, the team failed with him. Concentrated on him at that moment were the hopes and fears of thousands who seemed to hold their breath, and so still was the great park that even the breeze seemed forgetful to blow.

One way to get off third is to wait for someone to bat you off. Another is to get away on your own initiative -- Moriarty chose that. He knew his game. He knew the catcher's signals called for a ball thrown high to Mullin, who was now at bat. He knew that a runner might duck low to touch home plate while the catcher's mitt was in the air for a high ball. He knew that in throwing high, pitchers "wind up" in a certain way. He knew also that pitchers have a way of "winding up" when they don't intend to throw. He knew, moreover, that

this pitcher, being left-handed, could not keep watch on third while delivering the ball - the runner might safely take a longer lead. Moriarty knew all the ins and outs of his job. Luck might lie in the lap of the Gods, but preparation, knowledge, judgment and initiative were with the player.

Had Moriarty waited for Mullin to bat, Mullin might have failed him, ending the inning. One opening remained: make "home" between the moment the pitch was begun past all recall, and the moment the ball struck the catcher's mitt - make "home" in the fraction of time Mullin's hit or miss hung in futurity. That would be a contest in speed between a five-ounce ball delivered with all the force of a superb pitching arm and the 170 pound body of Moriarty! An unequal contest, for the pitched ball travels only sixty feet while the runner from third must hurl his body over a

distance of ninety feet.

Moriarty is on third. He builds his prospective run as an engineer builds a bridge across a torrent, with infinite pains. Now the Cleveland pitcher is poising himself for a throw. Moriarty is crouched like a tiger ready to spring -- Now! There is a white streak across the field! A cloud of dust at ~~the~~ home plate! The umpire stands over it with hands extended, palms down. That old baseball park echoes and re-echoes with a thunderous roar of acclaim, which bursts forth again and again in thrilling electric power. Every eye strains toward the man who is slapping the dust from his white uniform. Moriarty is Home!

It was only a run made in the course of a ball game; but it has been saying to us these many years -- Don't die on third. You may be put out, but it need not be by your inaction. If the run

must die, let it die trying. All of us are on bases. Some of us are waiting for someone to bat us further. Suppose he misses! Mullin missed the ball that day -- had Moriarty waited, he would not have scored. It would not be right to say that all the world's a baseball diamond; -- it does offer us the ever-present choice between indolence and initiative, but life's rules are fairer. In life there is an inner scoreboard where every effort is credited to your record. Many a valiant run is lost, but the valor of it builds the soul. So, while there's one thing yet to do, and there's always one thing yet to do, or a fraction of time to do it in, don't die on third. Study conditions, learn all you can, use all you learn, summon your strength and courage, defy luck -- and then, bold player -- just by doing this, you have already scored. Something great is strengthened within you. The run

may fail, but you have not, and there's another ball game tomorrow.

In closing I would counsel you again -

Keep growing - seeking new interest in your life.

Love your work - and work hard.

Seek to attain difficult goals.

Don't be afraid to take a chance - and don't die on third.

I wish the best for each of you in the years ahead.

*Lyle K Campbell*  
*Wheeler Machinery Co*  
VP.