

Gala Weekend As Connell Takes Mercer Helm

Connell Address 'Liberal Education' At Inauguration

(Extracts made by Mercer News Bureau)

"You can readily understand something of the deep sense of humility I feel in formally assuming the grave responsibilities of administrative leadership of my alma mater. Aware of the many difficulties facing church-supported colleges and the difficulty of following so many capable administrators, especially Dr. Dowell

Inspired by pledges of cooperation for trustees, faculty, students, alumni, and friends, "I feel it a high privilege to have a position of leadership in the company of these whose loyalties are committed to challenging tasks which lie ahead."

Speaker traced the history of the inspired men whose zeal was responsible for leading Baptists into the field of education, against the anti-intellectualism of the early 19th century. From this history comes the conviction "that intellectual achievement apart from moral concern and moral integrity is not necessarily beneficent, and that piety apart from enlightenment can be and too often is limited, darkened, and perverted." The denominational school, we are convinced, "is the best guarantee of positive Christianity in higher education and the most effective agency in preserving our civilization from decay."

The speaker pointed out that Mercer has always sought to train students in the broadly humanistic ideals of the liberal arts, further they have sought to foster faith in and out of the class rooms. But Mercer first of all is an "educational institution whose purpose is to develop men and women of critical temper and sturdy independent judgment."

Pressing needs and the program "to which we shall give our attention in the immediate future

1. Greater financial support called attention to the growing support on the part of Georgia Baptists within the past five years and the survey work being carried on by the Georgia Baptist Education Commission. "With an increasingly clearer understanding of the vast need and intrinsic worth of Christian education I believe the more than 2,500 churches representing 600,000 Baptists of Georgia will respond generously and sacrificially to this plea."

But ultimately the source of all financial support is the individual. "The measure of success we shall have in achieving the financial aid we seek will depend not so much on the particular

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'Liberal Education' In Today's World

Harold W. Tribble, President of Wake Forest College

The larger significance and vital importance of liberal education may be indicated by five affirmations:

1. Liberal education is to higher education what the heart is to the body.

Liberal education must, because of the nature of its function, be a prerequisite to vocational and professional education. Thus doctors, lawyers, and vocationally trained persons should all undergo the broad cultural preparation to be found in a liberal education.

"Now again I should like to say that liberal education must be kept liberal if it is to function as the heart of higher education, by which I mean that it must function freely under the discipline of truth. Any attempt to control liberal education in the interest of economic utilitarianism or political authoritarianism will induce leukemia in higher education."

2. Liberal education is to lower education what the brain is to the body.

Liberal education must have a voice in determining the context, the direction, the motivation and the content of lower education, or liberal education will be seriously hampered by lower education.

"For a generation now our public school system has suffered from the astigmatism of an unbalanced pragmatism. Let us not go from one extreme to another, but let us balance pragmatism with that which is generic to liberal education."

Good teachers are vitally necessary. "Here constructive criticism is needed. Our states have gone so far in requiring that our teachers have technical training that they have made it almost impossible for us to have well educated teachers in our secondary schools. Let me emphasize that this criticism is not directed at our teachers but at our system of teacher training."

3. Liberal education is to society what the nervous system is to the body.

Liberal education provides the best potential training ground for citizenship, and the liberal arts colleges are improving in vitality in terms of the responsibilities of citizenship.

Neither communism nor fascism have any place in this liberal arts community of learning, for both are alien to the foundations, the methods, and the objectives of liberal arts. "The best way to meet these threats is through true education, which must be as liberal,

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Maj. Connell immediately after he has taken oath of office as he is being congratulated by the chairman of the Board of Trustees.



Dr. Guy D. Snavely as he addresses audience at ceremonies third convocation Saturday morning. This convocation ended festivities.



Rev. Harry Smith, Mercer Alumni Contact Man, as he greets two former Mercerian classmates. Both classmates shown here are now college presidents.



Dr. Harold Tribble, principal speaker at Friday's Inaugural Services held in Willingham Chapel. Dr. Tribble is president of Wake Forest College.



Dr. Louie D. Newton, beloved Georgia Baptist and friend of Mercer as he serves as Master of Ceremonies, First Convocation in absence of famed Georgia Senator Walter F. George.



Platform group with Mercer Choir at beginning of Ceremonies in Willingham Chapel Friday. Among group is President of Student body, President Southern Baptist Convention, President of Georgia Baptist Convention, President emeritus Spright Dowell, Dr. Harold Tribble, principal speaker and other dignitaries. Choir is under direction of Dr. Arthur L. Rich.



Dr. William Fletcher Russell as he delivers second address in Saturday morning's convocation as festivities come to close.