

AFTER nearly a quarter of a century spent in the public service, I welcome the opportunity to speak briefly of those broader opportunities and duties for service which lie before the graduates of the Class of 1937.

But I bring to you no mere call to service; I bring you, as well, an appeal to a richer and fuller life which always comes to him who finds his part in some great cause. A great American philosopher has suggested that no man and no woman may truly live or truly serve until he has found and captured for himself some cause—some thing, whatever it may be, to which he may give in full devotion the deepest loyalty of his soul.

It is with such a thought in mind that I suggest to you that the life of every person here today will be enriched in direct proportion to his or her devotion to the social good.

At no time in the history of this state and this nation have the problems of society been more difficult, more complex, more needful of wise consideration and solution, or, I may say, more appealing to the spirit of our college men and women.

We of Oklahoma have lived in a single generation the entire cycle of history that in most other states has consumed generations. Here we found the last western frontier; here we lived the last chapter in the long story of the pioneer. Oklahoma was truly a land of hope and opportunity with its rolling prairies, its virgin, fertile soil, its great mineral deposits, its streams and forests. These things we saw, and seeing them, we took them for our own, and made of them the fabric of our commonwealth.

But, we have builded with an optimism which assumed inexhaustible farm lands, forests, and mineral resources. We have depleted our soils through excessive crop production and a failure to follow scientific rotation of crops. Through deforestation, lack of terracing, and unwise plowing up of native grasses and vegetation, we have permitted soil erosion by the forces of violent winds and water.

The prodigality with which we attack our natural resources of oil and gas was unparalleled. Vast quantities of oil were drawn to the surface before markets, transportation, or even proper storage facilities were available. Gas sufficient for our needs for generations was blown into the air in the wild scramble for the oil, though only by the use of such gas to draw the oil to the surface could the life of whole fields be properly prolonged.

At last we have learned the lesson that waste cannot be justified. Fortunately, we have come to recognize our great mistakes. I speak to you today of this common folly of all of us in failing to protect and preserve our natural resources, because there is yet time to preserve our place among the leading producing states



More than a thousand seniors march in to receive degrees

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BY PAUL WALKER, CLASS OF '12**

and to keep our state still the most comfortable, the most profitable and the most attractive place in which to live, if only we can assist in an aroused public consciousness and give our support to the agencies of government that have been set up to end the wasteful methods of the past.

Here as elsewhere in our social fabric, sound and constructive regulation is the order of the day. Our state constitution wisely provided for the regulation of transportation and transmission companies and the extending of similar regulations to other industries and services vital to the needs of the people, until today we regulate, among others, public utility service, natural gas service and power and electric service.

The old era of non-interference, or laissez-faire, is gone. Henceforth, society must act to prevent the losses and wastage of the past, as well as to bring about that proper development of those resources so essential to the welfare and happiness of mankind. Likewise, henceforth, the regulation of those industries and those utilities which primarily affect the public welfare must be more and more certain and effective in the public interest.

In my own work I see day by day the great developments in the field of communications and the benefits which

should flow to the public therefrom in better, more extensive and less expensive service.

Only last month I listened to the first conversation by telephone between this country and the Republic of China, and that conversation, over a distance of nearly ten thousand miles, was as clear as though it had been carried on between persons in the same city. Today you can pick up your telephone here in Norman and call directly persons in most of the nations of the world.

The new coaxial cable, capable of carrying simultaneously hundreds of telephone calls or thousands of telegraph messages, and of being used interchangeably for television, should revolutionize communications, and assist in making practicable the wonders of television.

The radio transforms the world before your very eyes, and it is yet in its infancy. Scarcely have we begun fully to realize the advantages which radio rightfully owes to the public, through better and more educational programs. I hope that the day may come when, through the radio, at practical hours and frequencies, the doors of this and other universities and colleges may be open to our homes in this and other states of the nation.

And just as it must be recognized that communications are potentially the property of the state and nation and must be conducted by those who operate them for the benefit of the people they serve, so must it likewise be recognized that other public utilities and public service agencies must also conduct themselves as agencies of the public, and serve honestly, most

The call



Paul Walker, '12, gives the Commencement address

to service

economically and most efficiently the needs of the people.

If these problems are to be solved, they must be solved by the help and the service of the men and women from the great universities and colleges of the land. Never in the nation's history have college and university men and women been more essential to the state and nation. And in the spirit of service, loyalty, and of unselfish and patriotic devotion to the public welfare, they have nobly responded.

One of the most inspiring things to me about the government in Washington during my stay there has been the patriotic fervor and the devotion given to the service by college and university men and women. They have worked with a zeal which no price could buy and with the single thought—the country's good.

The need today is for men and women adequately prepared for government service. The universities and colleges of the land realizing the necessity for preparation have developed special courses in government service and administration.

More and more it is realized that mere patronage and the selection of officials on purely political grounds can never result in truly successful or efficient government, particularly in the highly technical spheres of government agencies.

In state and nation we must not only call the college graduate to service; we must protect him in that service. We must guarantee to him opportunities for continued tenure and advancement according to his capabilities and merits; likewise, we must guarantee to society the

continuing services of truly competent administrators. Value of service, rather than political whims, must be the goal.

As aptly stated by Civil Service Commissioner Leonard D. White, "The risks that we run without a merit system are altogether too hazardous to be tolerated in the kind of civilization we are now living in."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt has urged the extension of the merit system in the selection of governmental personnel, and in a recent message to Congress he approved the following recommendation of the President's Committee on Administrative Management: "Democratic government today, with its greatly increased activities and responsibilities, requires personnel of the highest order—competent, highly trained, loyal, skilled in their duties by reason of long experience, and assured of continuity and freedom from the disrupting influences of personal or political patronage."

The call to service carries with it mutual obligations. He who would follow public service as a career must unselfishly renounce selfish interest or private gain, for the greater common good. Those graduates of this University who truly serve will receive a greater satisfaction from their service than comes to those who attain mere wealth or position of distinction and power merely for selfish ends.

Nor is this call to public service confined to those who enter government employment. They may best serve who from the fields of private endeavor give of their best talents to the support of our government. Even for those who enter fields

of effort other than governmental positions the responsibility of active citizenship to assist in the solution of our social problems is ever present.

To the graduates of this University, the world today with all its problems offers the greatest opportunity for service of all time.



The baccalaureate sermon

The seniors of 1937 were urged to "change the social climate" in the world of tomorrow, by Dr. Ivan Lee Holt, pastor of St. John's Methodist Church, St. Louis, in the baccalaureate sermon.

Under a democracy, it is possible for a group of people to change the social climate in such a way as to drive out cruelty and injustice, he declared.

"Hitler has changed the climate of Germany, and Mussolini has changed the climate of Italy," he said. "In democracies like Great Britain and the United States, groups of men, rather than individuals, are the creators of climate and we are greatly concerned about the groups that are to create the climate of tomorrow."

He expressed concern over what will happen to America when the 20,000,000 children of unemployed families are grown.



Walker is honored

A dinner honoring Paul Walker, '12, one of the founders, was given June 5 by the University chapter of Delta Sigma Rho, honorary forensic fraternity. The occasion was in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the chapter.

The group present for the dinner included, in addition to the honor guest: Leota Davis, '38, Norman; Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Bizzell, Norman; Mr. and Mrs. Julien C. Monnet, Norman; Jack Luttrell, '38, Norman; Ben S. Hill, '38, Duncan; Earl Foster, '12, Oklahoma City; Maurice H. Merrill, '19, Norman; C. P. Green, '25, Norman; LaRue Pottorff, '38, Oklahoma City; Jack Douglas, '36, Norman; Perrill Munch Brown, '14, Norman; Dick L. Gilley, '38, Oklahoma City; Herbert Branan, '32, '38, Muskogee; Elton B. Hunt, '13, Tulsa; F. H. Balyeat, '11, Norman; Ted Beaird, '21, Norman, and Floyd W. Wright, Norman.



Murrah honor guest

One of the outstanding spring events on the campus was a dinner given by Congress Literary Society to honor Federal District Judge A. P. Murrah, '28law. Dr. E. E. Dale, head of the History Department, presided. Other speakers included J. L. Gowdy, Oklahoma City attorney; Charles Schwoerke, Oklahoma county representative; and Herbert Branan, Muskogee county representative, all alumni of the University. Alfred Naifeh, law student, also spoke.