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UA3/3/1 Western Kentucky University, Speech

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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY. What does this name mean? If I had to identify its most important meaning, I would summarize it as-- increased opportunity for Western plus expanded service to our Commonwealth plus greater challenge to students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

As all will understand, when the law bringing university status to Western becomes final, there will be no sudden transformation on this campus. The years ahead must structure the change as they measure our acceptance of the opportunity, the service we render, and the success with which all of us will have met the challenge.

I shall always remember what Dr. H. H. Cherry said to me when I started as a field representative for Western in June, 1929. I had called on the Western founder before leaving on my first trip to visit schools and school officials in Western Kentucky. He walked with me from his office through the rotunda of the Administration Building and through the doors to the facade of the Building. As a parting challenge, he said: "Young man, look as far as you can see," as he pointed out toward the beautiful view with which we are all familiar. "Young man, look as far as you can see and describe it to me." I told him that I could see the horizon very clearly, with the hills meeting the sky and the beautiful countryside between the horizon and the campus. I shall never forget what he said: "You must see farther than that--you must see beyond those hills, beyond that horizon--for beyond are Kentucky boys and girls desperately in need of education. Remember that you must always try to see farther than you can see."

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY. How far can we see as we are about to embark upon a new era in the life of this institution? As we look forward to the increased opportunity, the expanded service, and the added challenge, all who care for Western must try to see beyond the horizon. We must see Western, not suddenly transformed but as a university on its way to fulfillment. We must see beyond to its maturity, a maturity created from the best thinking and planning and efforts on the part of all.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY. It is truly a milestone in the most unusual progress which has characterized this institution since its beginning. It is a recognition truly deserved. It is a monument to all who have worked through the years to make Western the fine center of higher learning which it is now.

But now is a near view, and out there are the hills and skyline. Between here and that horizon we will have many challenges to meet, much service to give, and many opportunities to achieve. Let us attack these challenges--let us pursue these new opportunities--and let us seek to serve, for it is within these meanings that excellence lies and true greatness is to be found.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY -- -- -- wonderful!