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[Dr. Lyman V. Ginger]

Excerpts from Commencement Address, Western State University, August 4, 1972

Recorded history will show that in the last 30 years American ingenuity has developed the atom bomb, ^{has} put man in orbit around the earth, has put man on the moon and has brought him back successfully, has conquered many diseases, has developed a system of health and medicine second to none and yet, great masses of our people are still unhappy. It appears that success and wealth will help but even with these, people are unkind, discourteous, crude, self-seeking, and envious. There are still people who are just as hurt and miserable emotionally as those who lived a hundred years ago.

It is suggested that perhaps the educated "heart" might serve to make all men respect human personality. If we could learn to know how important the other person is and to accept him for what he is, some of the hurt and anguish might be removed. In some way, we could distinguish between happiness and amusement and learn to respect the best salesman, the best teacher, the best doctor, the best lawyer, instead of respecting the superficial, the false, and the crass, we probably could develop happiness that would be long-lasting. Needless to say, money does not mean success nor does a different job mean happiness, but somewhere within the inner man, the educated person finds satisfaction, contentment, and enjoyment. The educated man is not necessarily a college graduate although we would accept, I believe, the fact that persons such as you would have a better opportunity to develop the educated heart. The truly educated person believes in the value, equality, and dignity of men--all men. He accepts the fact that man is not an animal in an economic or sociological experiment. He accepts the fact that man is not a cog in a state machine. He accepts the fact that man is the transmission line in the blood stream of eternity. He has divine value.

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It seems that change is the quality and mark of our age and we are powerless to avoid it even if we would. Whether the change is good or not depends upon the quality of leadership in our nation. This leadership must be strong and courageous; not haphazard and valueless. Our gifted young people must not avoid leadership roles. To be the kind of leader I am suggesting, you must be willing to say, "This is what I believe, this is what I will do, and this is what I will not do. This is my code of behavior. This I know is excellent and I will follow it. This I know is trash and I will reject it. This I believe to be right and I will accept it. This I believe to be wrong and I will speak out against it." The real leader must be willing to say what is wrong, what is vulgar, what is fraud, what is in bad taste and bad manners, and be just as willing to back the opposite.