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1973 Commencement Rituals, Finalized Charge

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CHARGE TO THE 1973 GRADUATES

After the Battle of Britain in the Second World War, Sir Winston Churchill said, "This is not the beginning of the end, but it is the end of the beginning." So it is with you tonight, for this is commencement, and commencement means the beginning.

Preparing this charge to the class of 1973 has been a particularly difficult task for me. Four years ago, in the dim, dark past of 1969, you and I began together here. In the four years since, there have been enormous changes in our world, our

with the students at Jackson State and Kent State.

People often ask me what has happened on the campus, where have the radicals gone. My answer is always that, while the tragic events of 1970 convinced most that violence only begets violence, the issues are still before us, and the students are if anything more deeply and genuinely concerned than were the radicals of the 60's. The purgatory of the last decade has, I believe, strengthened higher education even though at a frightful cost in both lives and in public support and confidence.

During these last four years, there has developed a genuinely productive and constructive participation in the affairs of the college on the part of both faculty members and students. This year's student officers, under the extraordinarily able leadership of their President, Dennis Schamber, were among the finest I have known in nearly thirty years in higher education. They showed just how much of a contribution students can make.

Our curriculum has been extensively changed, largely in the direction of giving

students more opportunity to make their own decisions about how they want to be educated. Within the last year, we have gone through two national accreditation evaluations. I am happy to tell you that the committee reports in both cases were the best this college has ever received. For the first time, we are fully and unconditionally accredited at all three levels in which we offer instruction. We still have much to do, but, with the continuing support of the Regents, the Governor, the Legislature, and the people of this state, we are on our way. You have

every right to be proud of your alma mater.

One thing is becoming increasingly clear in education. That is that education must never stop. Each fall, I talk with the freshmen, and one point I always make is that half of what students will learn in their four years will turn out to be wrong. The problem is that we educators do not know which half.

We, along with other colleges and universities, are attempting to extend our out-reach, particularly to adults. We no longer talk of extension courses; rather we speak of continuing education. We hope

that many of you who remain in the area will return for regular courses, short courses, or institutes. If you live elsewhere, do the same with whichever college or university is near you.

You have helped to make this college what it is. In a very real sense, you are now trustees of the college. As beneficiaries of an education in a state college, I hope that as citizen trustees you will remember that you do hold the future of this college in trust. As alumni, we hope that you will remain members of the Fort Hays family, that you will help to insure

that the college continues to develop,
that future generations of students may
receive the education they need to deal
with whatever kind of world there will be.

The late eminent theologian, Reinhold
Niebuhr, once composed a prayer with which
I would like to close. "Lord, grant me the
serenity to accept the things I cannot
change; courage to change the things I
can; and wisdom to know the difference."

We hope that, in some small measure, your
years here have added to your serenity,
your courage, and your wisdom.

Good luck, God speed.