

Youth Want to know Seminar with Space
Administrator James E. Webb, N. d

2.28

YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW

ANNOUNCER: American Security and Trust Company, one of the 100 largest banks in the nation, presents YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, are we losing the space race to the Russians?

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, is it possible for us to send manned aircraft into orbit and return it?

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, when will we develop an atomic powered rocket?

BARBER: In just a moment, Space Administrator James E. Webb will answer these and other penetrating questions on YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW, created and produced by Theodore Granik.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

BARBER: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW. In 1956 for the fiscal year ending June 30, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration or NASA, spent \$71.1 million for research and development. In the current fiscal year, the expenditure is \$1.8 billion. President Kennedy for fiscal '63 is requesting nearly \$4 billion. The man charged with administering this vital program is James E. Webb. Mr. Webb also is a member of the National Aeronautics and Space Council. Mr. Webb, it's a pleasure to welcome you to YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW.

MR. WEBB: Thank you very much.

BARBER: Now let's begin our questioning with Al.

QUESTION: Sir, are we losing the space race to the Russians?

MR. WEBB: No we are not. The situation, I think, is that the Russians built a big booster for their military program and have used it for a lot of space spectaculars. Now we have used the boosters that we have to do a tremendous amount of scientific work. We have really explored the universe and even shown that we could use the Atlas for successful manned space flight.

QUESTION: Well do their boosters put them ahead of us in the military space field?

MR. WEBB: No I don't think so, because the large bombs that they were able to make in the original go round required big boosters. We

were able with our manned aircraft program to develop the smaller bombs and, therefore, could use the smaller rockets. I do not think so.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, it has been predicted that the USSR will use a vast amount of cargo rockets to deposit foodstuffs on the moon and then send a one-way three-man rocket. Will this be feasible for the United States?

MR. WEBB: No, it would not in my opinion. It's pretty hard to guess what they're going to do. You can hear a lot of reports.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, do you think it is possible for the United States to send manned aircraft into orbit and then return it back to earth?

MR. WEBB: Yes. As you know, we have the X-15 program, which has been a transitional type of combination airplane and spacecraft. Now the Air Force has a Dynosaur program which is aimed at the same type of winged aircraft recovery as we have used in the X-15. This is a very active program under development, and I'm sure it's going to give us a great deal of the operating experience in this area.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, in order to equal the Russian feats, why don't we combine our military and civilian programs?

MR. WEBB: I think that this is not a very simple question. First of all, the 1958 act requires the National Aeronautics and Space Administration program to conduct a civilian program for the benefit of all mankind in close cooperation with the scientific community and with other nations. Now it does specifically reserve to the Defense Department the development of weapons systems for use in space as required by the national security. Now it would be pretty difficult to conduct a program in cooperation with other nations in classified areas. I think we are stronger with the two programs.

QUESTION: If the NASA program is strictly for peaceful purposes, why is there so much security surrounding it?

MR. WEBB: Well, it isn't strictly for peaceful purposes. The basic aeronautical technology was developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration just as it was in the earlier days by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. We developed the basic technology which can be used for peaceful purposes or for military purposes. We do it for commercial airplanes as well as for military airplanes. Now there is very little classification in our program. Your question implies there is a lot. The only classification or secrecy has to do with those technologies

developed for military use or where we borrow rockets and launch them under military technology.

QUESTION: Sir, in peaceful purposes, are we cooperating with the Russians to any appreciable extent in the space program?

MR. WEBB: Certainly we are. We, under the law, do publish the results of our program. They have these available just as all other nations in the world, but the point is we're moving very rapidly forward with advancing technology, and whether you call it cooperation to publish this material and have them read it, or whether you simply say this is a way of spreading the problems over the entire scientific community of the world so that the problems come from the men best qualified to answer them, this is another question.

BARBER: Mr. Webb, are the Russians reciprocating at all or to any degree? Are we getting any knowledge from them?

MR. WEBB: Yes, we have some knowledge from them. They have cooperated in the International Geophysical Year Program. They have cooperated in some of the magnetic survey programs, but not to any appreciable degree.

QUESTION: Sir, in 1960 you stated that in either '61 or '62 you felt the Russians could not land a man on the moon. May it be true in '63 or in the near future?

MR. WEBB: I do not think that they have the capability in the near future. You see the requirements for landing on the moon and safe return to earth are very much greater than those for orbital flight or even a fly by of the moon. Now what I stated was that I thought they would do additional spectacular flights before we could do them, using their big booster, that they would probably do a multi-manned orbital flight before we could, they would probably do a multi-manned flight by the moon. But when it came to all of the requirements to land on the moon and return and do a scientific exploration, our total industrial capacity--the great strength of this nation--would show itself, and that we were in a completely competitive position in that regard.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, Parade Magazine recently stated that 12 women had passed all the qualifying tests necessary for an astronaut. In view of this, don't you think they should be considered for training for future flights?

MR. WEBB: Well, it depends on what you mean by all the qualifications. Now, some women have undergone a number of the ground tests, but in these early experimental flights, using these very high performance boosters and space craft and the control loop in this very complex machine,

the best scientific and technical opinion is that experience in high performance jet aircraft is essential to insure the performance of these flights and to learn what we need to know from them. Now it may be in later flights, after they become more routine, we will certainly consider this. Now the applications that we are asking for people who want to be astronauts, does not exclude women. It doesn't exclude anyone. It simply says, people who are qualified with the necessary experience, should apply and we'll consider their qualifications.

BARBER: Joan, are you going to volunteer or ask a question?

QUESTION: I'm not sure if I'll volunteer, but I'd like to ask you if you think that it's possible that the moon shot would be--the crew of three would be composed of two men and a woman as has been suggested by psychologists?

MR. WEBB: No I do not think so, and I'll tell you why. Actually, the first flights to the moon are going to be under very severe conditions. The problems of launching a spacecraft from the moon with only three people there to participate in the launching is very very difficult. Now we will want some scientific training for the members of this crew, but the problem of getting there and getting back is a very very big problem and will require the utmost training in aeronautical and space technology.

QUESTION: Sir, you mentioned boosters as the one area in which the Russians far exceed us. When do you think we will overtake them in this vital area?

MR. WEBB: Well, as you know, we've flown the first stage of the Saturn C-1 which has a million, 300 thousand pounds of thrust. The next version of it will have a million, 500 thousand pounds of thrust. The largest boosters that we've seen the Russians fly have about 800 thousand pounds of thrust, so we've already tested the first stage of a larger rocket than they have flown. We have a very active flight program coming forward for 1962, 3 and 4, and in that period we are going to have perfected boosters. Remember you've got to fly at least 10 flights of one of these big boosters to do all the tests necessary to feel that you'd be comfortable to put men on the nose of it.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, in what stages is Project Apollo, and have they chosen a site for it?

MR. WEBB: Well, now Project Apollo is a three-manned spacecraft that will follow the Mercury and the Gemini. Now we are expanding the three-orbit Mercury to a one-day mission--that is, 24 hours of space flight with one man. We'll do that within approximately a year. Now, shortly

behind that will be the first test flights of the two-man space flight, Gemini. Here we will get experience with weightless flight and other conditions up to about a week. Now the Apollo will come shortly after that. This will involve three men. The first flights will be in orbit around the earth. The second stage will be to make a fly by of the moon and other flights out beyond the area of the earth, and the third stage is the moon landing. Now we are going to launch all of these from Cape Canaveral because we gained the benefit of the rotation of the earth in adding to the speed of the vehicle and it takes a smaller booster to launch eastward across the Atlantic than it would in another direction.

BARBER: Mr. Webb, you've mentioned several ambitious projects. What, in your opinion, will be the most spectacular and most advanced U.S. effort--the most successful one--during this decade of the Sixties? This calls for a lot of guesswork.

MR. WEBB: Well, I don't know. There's a lot of phases of this program. It would be very spectacular to have a communications satellite in orbit which would perform the first intercontinental television. It's very spectacular to find that we could launch one week after the Glenn flight an orbiting solar observatory, which is establishing the relationship between the earth and the sun. Now this is very important for scientists. It didn't create a great deal of speculation in the range of flight; although the radio failed, we still showed we had the guidance that permitted us to put the Ranger on the leading edge of the moon, and let the Aegina pass by the trailing edge of the moon and get enough of a kick from the gravity of the moon to pass it on out into a solar orbit. Now when you can straddle the moon like that, you've done a spectacular thing.

BARBER: Indeed so.

MR. WEBB: Obviously, the manned space flight program is the real spectacular thing. I think the landing on the moon will probably be the most spectacular thing in this generation.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, so far all of the recoveries have been from the water. Will Project Apollo also be recovered from the water? And how soon will we start recovering over land?

MR. WEBB: Well, we expect with the Gemini to be able to start recovery over land. As a matter of fact, the Mercury could be recovered over land, but you might have a little rough landing because it comes down fairly fast. It's a safer and a surer process to do it over water, but we are proceeding rapidly to incorporate the land landing technique in the program.

that the thing we needed most of all was to get it before a forum where the decision could be made--namely, Congress. I participated actively there. I participated in hearings. I've appeared before most of the committees down there and my testimony is on record, which is that we need a system to expand our capacity urgently, that this offers many new and revolutionary capabilities for the future of this nation. Now, we do have a monopoly in the common carrier traffic now for seven companies, and the telephone company carries most of the traffic. It will furnish about 80% of the load on this new system. So, it's not so simple as to say a monopoly of one company in this. The actual benefit to the customer so that any business man or any person wanting to use the system has service available, is one of the main objectives in our whole common carrier system.

QUESTION: But Mr. Webb, why should AT&T or any company who put not a penny into this space program and its development, on which the United States government spent billions, why should these companies reap profits from this satellite program?

MR. WEBB: How do you know they haven't put a penny into it? They have, as a matter of fact, conducted a great deal of research. They've agreed to pay the United States government between \$3 and \$6 million a shot to fire the satellites that they have prepared with their own money for flight. Now it certainly is true that the major cost of the capability we have for launching satellites has been paid by the United States government. But you must bear in mind that the problem is to establish a system of international communications. It must tie into the system by which the messages are collected in the United States and taken to a station that will transmit them to the satellite. They have to be collected at the other end and then sent out over the network in the foreign country. This is not so simple as your question seems to imply. The profits on this operation will probably not come for a number of years. There are very grave risks in it, but more importantly, the regulation of the Federal Communications Commission is aimed at furnishing a service that will not be downgraded as these new capabilities come in and the profit or loss on the system will depend on how much traffic goes on it. AT&T has now a large proportion of the telegram traffic that moves between this country and other countries--about 80% of it. So they have an obligation here to develop additional resources to carry increased traffic.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, which steps have been taken to guard against price fixing by NASA contractors?

MR. WEBB: Well, I'm not sure what you mean by price fixing. Most of the money that we spend is spent under competitively arranged contracts under which proposals are made by those companies in the business. Now when you have competition, and ask the companies capable to come in and make their proposals and evaluate them, it's pretty hard to find price fixing. This is not like buying shoes or buying concrete roadways. These are research contracts to develop things that are more difficult to make than anything the human mind has ever made. These rockets have to be able to boost tremendous loads, use liquid hydrogen fuel. These are very difficult problems and the real problem is how do you get able people working on the contracts.

QUESTION: In other words, the point is not so much if the government gets the cheapest job as it gets the best job?

MR. WEBB: Well, I saw a little cartoon the other day that had an astronaut up on top of a big rocket and he was going through the count-down down to about three, and this guy said: "Hold it, hold it. Did you say everything under me was built by the lowest bidder?" I mean there's a problem here with respect to reliability. We are taking the companies who are best qualified to do the work and improve the reliability of these systems.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, you stated that upcoming flights would be from Cape Canaveral. Then why are the astronauts being moved to Houston?

MR. WEBB: Well, the manned spacecraft center in Houston is designed to work with the system we have for building the boosters and getting them to the Cape. Now we looked all over the world and selected Cape Canaveral as the best place to launch because we already had a very large investment there, instruments down range. We had ships on station. There were already active programs by the military there. So we expanded the Cape. Now Werner von Braun and his group at Huntsville--about 5,000 or 6,000 people--were already in the big booster business. We had one booster, as you know, landlocked because a dam went out on the river. Now we decided then we would do the actual fabrication of the big rockets at the mouth of the Mississippi River near New Orleans in a government plant that was vacant and that we'd let the parts be made anywhere that companies could make them in the United States, and assemble at this point, test it over in a facility nearby. Bear in mind, we have to clear out a radius--a circle with a radius of about 10 miles for these tests because there's so much noise and the explosion danger is so great. Now, having Canaveral to launch, Huntsville is the main center of management of the boosters, New Orleans is the place where we fabricate them and put it together and 35 miles away a test facility, Houston was the logical place in which to build a spacecraft for integration here. Bear in mind, we may have to go beyond the Apollo

three-man spacecraft to large multi-man--12 man, 15 man--orbiting stations. Here we have to move these things by water, and we have to have ability to work year around outdoors. So this is a pattern. Let me point out to you that if we have to fight in space, if we have to turn this into a military program, the concentration of these facilities where the final assembly comes together would be a very valuable thing to the military.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, you've consistently emphasized the amount of training that is needed to put on a program like this. What are we doing to train men for the future? We need intensive cross training, and we need many more engineers and scientists than we have now. What is being done to put forward this program?

MR. WEBB: Well, one important thing is that we hire bright people who have graduated from college and then permit them to go on for advanced degrees in college. Down at Langley Field, for instance, there are 300 of our employees going to Virginia institutions to get masters degrees and doctors degrees. This is going on at all of our ten stations around the country. Second, we have just instituted a training program for pre-doctoral students. We have 100 students to be selected and trained in ten institutions and we are encouraging the training of these people in every way that we possibly can. We agree with you.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, you mentioned a moment ago a man in Space station. What progress has been made towards this, and when do you expect this to be completed?

MR. WEBB: Well, I just told you that we've got the one-day mission with Mercury following the three orbit mission, the Gemini following that, the Apollo following that. Now the Gemini is a two-man orbiting space station with the capability of existing up to a week. The Apollo will be able to exist up to a month or two. Now, this is the kind of experience we need to find out how men adapt to space, how long they can stay under the weightless condition and still return to earth without being damaged in the process.

QUESTION: I was speaking about a permanent man in space station, probably with military capabilities?

MR. WEBB: Well, the first thing you must bear in mind is that we do not know if a man can adapt to weightlessness and live three, four or five days and still safely return to earth, or whether he can live a week or a month. We have to find this out. If it is not possible for him to return safely and take the high stress of reentry after say a few days or a week in

space, then we have to make a very large station that has some kind of artificial gravity through a spin process. Now the first thing to do is to find out if a man requires this or if he doesn't. We're going to be flying every 60 or 90 days from now on with the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo, to find this kind of thing out, and as we find it out, we'll develop the next step. It's just like the X-15 program. We'll fly and fly and fly, and experiment will determine the questions of what needs to be done next.

BARBER: Mr. Webb and panel, I'm sorry to have to interrupt. We're almost out of time, but we will have time for a final question. We'll be back in just a moment.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

BARBER: All right, Jeff, we have about a minute.

QUESTION: Mr. Webb, what is being done about the danger of cosmic rays, solar rays, even X-Rays, on the moon and in space around the earth and on trips to the moon? How will men be protected?

MR. WEBB: Well, the first thing we're doing is studying the pattern for the last 50 years of the solar activity so as to be able to predict the times when men can fly safely. Then we also are equipping these spacecraft with enough rockets so that they can return to earth in a hurry should solar flare or other danger come about. Then we are making complete studies of how you can best shield men in the spacecraft and the spacecraft itself. Remember with a nuclear rocket, we've got to provide shielding from the nuclear reactor in the rocket itself. So, we are really after that problem.

BARBER: On that note, Mr. Webb, I'm sorry I'll have to terminate our discussion. I wish we had more time. It's been a pleasure having you, sir, as guest on YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW. And our thanks to our panel of questioners and to you, ladies and gentlemen, for joining us. Now this is Julian Barber inviting you to be with us again next week when our guest will be Republican Senator Clifford Case of New Jersey.

ANNOUNCER: Tune in again next Sunday at 6:30 for YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW, presented by American Security and Trust Company, where Greater Washington banks.

ADDRESS GIVEN BY ADMIRAL STARK AT WILKES COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT 4 June 1956

SUBJECT

WYOMING VALLEY

PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

(Preliminary extemporaneous remarks by Admiral Stark
as a prelude to main address not recorded)

The first permanent settlers in Wyoming Valley came down from Connecticut between 1762 and 1769.

It's only a few hours travel today, but in those times, it took days of travel, and very rough going. This area of our East was then the western frontier of the thirteen English colonies.

The pioneers in this beautiful and fertile valley cleared the land, built their cabins, and made friends, or enemies, of the local Indian tribes.

As on every one of our successive frontiers, men were isolated from their neighbors and depended upon their courage, initiative and industry, not only for their livelihood, but also for their very lives.

A Bishop of the early church is reported to have said that society needs three kinds of men: those who work, those who fight, and those who pray. More often than not, the early settler combined all three in the individual.

The settlers could look to no one else for services, for food, or for defense. They were of necessity and independent, rugged people. Farming, hunting, and trading were their chief occupations.

The Indians burned the black rock which later was the basis of our Valley's economy, but coal was not a source of wealth until men learned to burn it easily, and transport it economically.

In 1820, a handful of men mined 365 tons of anthracite in the State of Pennsylvania.

In 1870, - 35,600 men mined over 14,000,000 tons.

In 1917 - 156,000 men mined 100,000,000 tons.

These years of undisturbed growth ended about 1924, with the development of competing fuels: - oil, gas, and coke.

In 1955, production in the State had dropped from 100,000,000 tons to 25,742,000 tons; and employment from around 156,000 men, to 32,000 men.

The above figures are State wide and are taken from the Annual Report,

1954, of the Anthracite Division, Department of Mines, and from a special report of the Anthracite Institute for 1955.

With unemployment resulting from decreased coal mining, this community was faced with two alternatives:-

(a) It could take it lying down, and accept a steady and continued decline of its entire economy, letting its men seek employment elsewhere (and many were forced to do so), or

(b) It could unite in constructive action to obtain new industries, and expand old ones, and thereby take up the slack in employment, and insure the Valley's future growth.

Happily, that same spirit, which saw our early settlers overcome all odds, prevailed in our men and women of today: and, fortunately for all of us, a few men of vision and courage stayed to fight this threat to the welfare of the community.

Here was a new challenge.

Your leaders accepted that challenge.

The fight is still on. The transition period (as you well know) is difficult, the obstacles many, but progress has been and is being made towards a broad-base economy, as evidenced by the following:

In 1940, there were 413 manufacturing plants in Luzerne County, employing 25,221 persons. In 1955, there were 617 plants employing 42,733 persons.

In the mines of Luzerne County, on the other hand, and during this same period, employment dropped from 39,774 men to 16,800.

For fifteen years every gain in industry was more than counterbalanced by a loss of employment in the mines, and it was not until this year (1956) that the gains of any single year promise to exceed the losses.

Needless to say, such prolonged losses made tough going for those who bore the ~~brunt~~ of this effort for community rehabilitation, but fortunately

they had faith that the job could be done, and they stuck to it.

So it is that in 1955 there were 204 more industrial plants employing 17,500 more men and women than in 1940.

These figures show that our community leaders are succeeding in their attempt to create a new economic base upon which to build for the future.

Quietly and without fanfare, this community is being changed from a mining to an industrial center, even though mining still remains the greatest single source of income.

This experience plainly shows what the men and women of this area can do if everybody puts his shoulder to the wheel: as has been done so well by the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Fund.

Like a ship - we all go up or down together.

It's what in the Navy we call an "all hands" job.

The job requires that we should: -

- a. Encourage research that will develop new uses for our greatest natural resource - - coal.
- b. Develop a plan of cooperation for existing industries to assure their continued success and growth.
- c. Create conditions that will attract new industries.
- d. Cultivate a high morale and community spirit through the support of our schools and colleges, our churches and social agencies, and our cultural groups.

It requires vision, courage, faith, intelligent planning, leadership, and community determination to get on with the job and see it through. These qualities stem from trained and disciplined minds - - and that is where education comes in.

Doctor Marts, who means so much to Wilkes College, recently stated before the Georgia Education Association in Atlanta: - and I quote

"We, in our generation in America, are living on brains, educated brains. The next and the following generations will enjoy even greater prosperity and

abundance because of the education our colleges and universities are giving.

"Last year over \$5,000,000,000 was spent in the U. S. on research: 2/3 by industry and the balance by colleges and universities, governmental agencies and non-profit institutions.

"This is the seed-corn of America's future economy. Out of this research will come most of the products which will be manufactured by industry and used by the public within the next twenty years.

"One great corporation, for example, has stated that 40% of its present business is in producing things that did not exist 15 years ago. They were dreamed up by trained minds and imaginations.

"Who is doing all this research? Who are these men and women whose brains are creating tomorrow's industry? They are the college boys and girls of yesterday.

"Yet, in spite of all our strides, we are still like children paddling along the shore of a great ocean of knowledge. More and more must be trained by our colleges, and some day we will inherit the well-being which God intended for his children on this earth." Unquote.

Your college was established to serve you at a time when the future seemed most black. In 1933 the country was at the bottom of the world-wide depression, and the people of Wyoming Valley despaired that their economy, so long based on coal, could be revived.

It was in that year of 1933 that a small group of people decided that the young people of this Valley should have new opportunities for education and self-development.

They made only a small and inauspicious beginning, but then these beginnings increased their conviction that a trained and self-reliant people could create their own future. And as this conviction grew, more students accepted the opportunities that were offered, and more and more support was given to the College.

The realization that the nurture and development of human capabilities was the only sure path to community and national well-being prompted generous giving and inspired a growing confidence.

Your College has been created by the gifts and hopes of the generation that precedes you, and your own education at Wilkes has been made possible by their faith that the future is secure if the intelligence and character of oncoming generations are fully developed.

At this moment, you are the latest Wilkes class to accept the responsibilities and challenges that must be met if our civilization is to survive.

Tomorrow, you will replace those who have created your College and, in your turn, you will sustain and pass on a richer heritage to future students.

Wilkes is better for your having become a part of it, and I am sure that you are better for having given to and received from your College.

I was delighted to learn just this morning, that you have already established a Class Memorial Fund, that will be used throughout the years to help your College, and to enrich the education of those who follow you.

- - - - - I congratulate you all on this splendid action.

The story of our College and our Valley is also the story of civilizations. History shows that civilizations have lost their vitality and have withered away when men lost their faith and their sense of purpose. And studies of New England communities, made during the past decade, show that it is men and ideas that determine the vitality of a community.

In studying New England communities that had lost their basic industries a member of the staff of the Harvard School of Business Administration found that some of these towns were recovering from their losses whereas others were withering away.

Wondering why some should recover, and others fail, he began to search for causes.

He soon found that the towns that were recovering had no economic advantages over those that were declining, and further inquiry revealed that the difference lay in the quality of community leadership.

Where the community possessed leaders of courage and conviction, plans for economic recovery and united action were formulated.

Where this leadership was lacking, action and planning were also lacking, and the economic dissolution of the community continued without check.

Though you may not know it, you have seen men undertake that which seemed impossible, because they believed in the worth of their efforts and had faith that the right acts would gain the right results.

It should be significant to each of you as you graduate from Wilkes that you have participated in the making of a College that has grown,---in the face of adversity,---because men and women believed in the worth of the individual and have been sustained, during moments of doubt, by faith in the ideals that have motivated them.

These are American principles.

If you can carry with you a full measure of this same conviction, and this same faith, you will find yourselves capable of sustaining and expanding the ideals and institutions of a free people, and ultimately, we hope of a free world, and a peaceful one.

We have learned by bitter experience that the strength of our voice in inter-national affairs is largely in proportion to our armed might---yet, it is also a struggle for men's hearts and minds.

No methods for peace will ever succeed permanently unless they deal with the inner man -- and for this we must never cease trying.

At this point it might be a good place for me to stop. I recall when I was naval aide to the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Claude Swanson, he asked me one day what I thought of a talk he had made.

I replied: "It was good, but altogether too long."

He made no comment, but when he got on his feet next day after a luncheon in his honor in San Diego, he made one of the shortest and wittiest talks I ever heard him make.

He started off by mentioning his question to his naval aide and the reply he received, and then, among other amusing remarks, about the long windedness of an ex-senator; he told the story of his inaugural address when elected to his first term as Governor of Virginia.

He said he was going to try to outdo all the famous orators of Virginia from Patrick Henry on down -- and after finishing and feeling rather proud of his efforts, and like every good husband, he went over to his wife and said:

"My dear, what did you think of my speech?" and her reply was:

"I thought you missed several very good opportunities."

Rather surprised, he asked:

"Opportunities for what?"

She answered: "Opportunities to stop."

But at the risk of talking a little too long, there are a few things I'd like to mention to you young men and women.

I want to read to you an extract from an article by Ralph Bunche, United Nations Undersecretary and a Nobel Peace Prize winner. The article is entitled "The Best Advice I Ever Had." Here it is, and I quote:

My invalid mother and I were sitting in front of our little adobe house in Albuquerque, watching a glorious New Mexico sunset one spring evening in 1916. She knew, I think, that she had not long to live. I was a boy of 12. She searched for words to help me in the difficult times ahead.

"Ralph, she said taking my hand in hers, "God sends trials and tribulations to test us. But he arms us against them with hope and faith and dreams. Nothing is ever lost until they are abandoned, and then everything is lost. My boy, don't ever let anything take away your hope and faith and

dreams." Unquote.

The founders of Wilkes, and your fine Board of Trustees, headed by Gilbert McClintock who is devoted to your interests, had his hope and faith and dreams. And I shall not forget the joy of your splendid President, Doctor Farley, and the warmth with which he spoke to me when he learned of some of the wonderful gifts recently made to your College.

He said - quote

"It's like seeing some of the things I have dreamed, coming true."

Unquote.

His thoughts were of the faculty, of greater opportunities for you young men and women, and of greater service to this community.

Henry Ward Beecher wrote: Quote

"No man can tell whether he is rich or poor by turning to his ledger. It is the heart that makes a man rich. He is rich according to what he is, not according to what he has." Unquote.

The greatest of all treasures is that inner reward that comes only from difficult tasks well done; and

The greatest monument any of you can ever have - is the good will you leave in men's hearts and minds.

Don't be misled or overruled by the sensational, and the slander, which so often get the big headlines in the press.

Mostly unsung are the deeds of the vast majority of our people who perform their daily tasks honestly, efficiently, and cheerfully. It is they who keep the wheels going round.

I have never forgotten the words uttered from the pulpit over half a century ago by our beloved rector of St. Stephens Church, Doctor Henry L. Jones, when he said: Quote

"There's many a hero who never left a work bench, and many a heroine

who never left a kitchen." Unquote

Give a helping hand when you can, join your civic activities, and take your part in running your government - local - state - and national, from the precinct level up.

Lend yourselves to: -

"The assertion of truth -

The unveiling of illusion -

The dissipation of hate - and

The enlargement and instruction of men's hearts and minds." (The late Lord Keynes)

Life's cruise is a grand challenge -

Opportunities and need were never greater than today for men and women of character and with feet planted firmly on the ground.

We live in a machine age, but if all the power plants go out, and all the gadgets cease to function, we will still be men and women, and it is character upon which we stand or fall.

"Build castles in the air if you will, but put solid foundations under them."

Carry on with a smile. 'Twill pay big dividends: as will also hard work and common sense and for which there are no substitutes.

A few years ago the Kentucky Derby was won by a horse who was a very long shot. He had not even been mentioned as a possible winner. After the race when the crowd gathered around, the jockey was asked, if he were not greatly surprised, and how it happened.

His reply was: No, he wasn't too much surprised, his horse wasn't flashy or a sprinter, but he was a good horse, and he just kept on running when the others got tired - There's a lesson in that for all of us.

I thank you for letting me share this happy occasion with you.

Good Sailing! Good Luck! and God Bless You, and ever keep
in mind that: Life begins each morning and -

"Today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and
every tomorrow a vision of hope."

