

American Colleges Face Pressures, New Values, According to Scranton

Former Gov. William W. Scranton gave his personal critique of the recently published report of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest of which he was chairman when he addressed the 2,000 guests at the Inauguration of Dr. Francis J. Michelini, yesterday as Wilkes College's second president.

"After the killings at Kent State and Jackson State this past Spring and the bombing at the University of Wisconsin this Summer, this Fall has been comparatively calm on the campuses," Scranton told the audience. "There is, what one President called, 'an eerie tranquility.'"

"What must we do? Well, the President's Commission has made recommendations to all of us—the law enforcement agencies, the universities, the government, students and many other.

Scranton feels two things must be done: "First, Something we must not do.

"Many young people and some older ones in America today are questioning basic values. They are saying that America has become too materialistic, authoritarian, dehumanizing and unjust. They mean to change all that and supplant it with 'the new values'."

"It is not easy to find a precise definition of what these new values are. I have described them as having elements of Christianity, Judaism and the Declaration of Independence. In short, there is much that is good in the new values if we would but try to learn what they are and understand them," Scranton said.

Public Attitude

Scranton feels the public attitude toward higher education has changed perceptibly and in many ways in the past two years.

"There are two growing pressures on higher education in America, from the advocates of the new values on the campuses and from the public outside."

He feels universities are being forced to choose and take sides.

"Many of the old defense of academic freedom," Scranton explained, "are falling. Even such a basic one as tenure.

"Obviously, all members of the academic community, as individuals, should be free to participate actively in whatever campaigns or causes they choose. But universities as institutions must remain politically neutral except in those rare cases in which their own integrity, educational purpose, or preservation is at stake.

"I think at long last Americans generally are alert and awake to the possibility of an infringement upon the principle of academic freedom from within the university communities themselves. I wonder if they are quite as alert to the possibility that this could take place from without."

He warned that criticism of

Michelini Inaugural Colorful

"Our responsibility is to provide young, active creative minds with the tools of our intelligence," Dr. Francis J. Michelini told the more than 2,000 guests in his inaugural address as second president of Wilkes College.

"We must provide the accumulated experience of thousands of years of human history in an objective, rational unemotional way, so that our society can continue to resolve its problems and move forward."

Thus the new president of Wilkes began his term as president in an impressive and memorable ceremony attended by more than 300 representatives of leading colleges and universities.

The processional in which the principals wore gowns and mortar boards and colorful degree and university stoles in blazing colors marched to the processional "Crown Imperial" by Director Raymond Nutaitis and the Wilkes College Concert Band.

Msgr. John F. Boll offered the invocation.

The Wilkes College Chorus, under the direction of Richard Chapline, sang "Gird on Thy Sword."

Receives Mace

Wilkes College's first president and first chancellor, Dr. Eugene S. Farley, delivered the address of welcome. He wore the gold chain which signifies his role as chancellor. During the ceremony a silver chain and mace were presented to Dr. Michelini.

The inaugural address was delivered by former Gov. William W. Scranton.

Dr. David R. Goodard, provost of University of Pennsylvania, extended greetings as did Congressman Daniel J. Flood, Aldo Farnetti, president of Student Government; Dr. Charles B. Reif, faculty representative; and Atty. Joseph J. Savitz, alumni representative.

Atty. Louis Shaffer, chairman of the board of trustees, presented the mace to Dr. Michelini and to Dr. Farley the chain of office.

Rev. Dr. Jule Ayers offered the inaugural prayer.

higher educational institutions can go "to far." He cited various bills presented in great numbers before the Congress of the United States in the past year.

Scranton adamantly stated, "Universities must pull themselves together."

He pointed out that many of the powers in colleges and universities that were the president's now are in the hands of the faculty and are desired by the students. Most boards of trustees are still comparatively innocuous.

"I say again that there is a need immediately for universities to pull themselves together to respond to disorder. The administration must be organized for crisis. The role of the students, the faculty, the administrators and trustees must be clearly defined and practically applied; the limits of permissible conduct must be defined. The disciplinary system must be modernized and understood; and where there is a university police force or student and faculty marshall, they must be thoroughly trained and their roles understood.

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