



DEMANDS RESPONSIBILITY

Activate

THE RED & WHITE

Not
Hesitate

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“ARRIVE WITH POWER ARRIVE AS POWER ARRIVES”

I hail you tonight as a new **power**, an extremely strong **power**, that has finally arrived on this university campus. It is of the utmost importance to begin by saying that; to insist that the issue here is **not** two or three specific and unspectacular requests: the issue is **power**. For all concerned this truth must be realized clearly; otherwise, all concerned could suffer needlessly and perhaps grievously.

The students must realize that power is the issue. Our highways shriek with the horror of marvellous young men and women slaughtered by thousands because they never did realize the power put in their hands by the modern automobile. God help the young men and women who lay their hands on **student power** without realizing what they are handling. They might destroy enemies alright — if they are any real ones around, but they might very easily destroy their own heritage and careers in the bargain.

The faculty must realize that power is the issue. Many clear thinkers are convinced today that much of the ineffectiveness of expensive facilities and high-powered teaching methods, results directly from a failure to recognize, honor, and harness the vast decision-making power owned inalienably by the youth whom they are educating. Student apathy is probably due more than anything else to the conviction that students get that they are being given very little **real** say in determining their own destinies.

It is because of this student apathy, too, that the **governing bodies of the University**, the Senate and the Board of Governors, must realize that power is the issue. But these bodies have a very serious additional reason for recognizing, respecting, and even welcoming the new power. Here is the reason: responsibility means: A) to recognize the full import of what one does, and B) to be willing to accept the full consequences of one's actions. Then it is only when the governing bodies start to collaborate respectfully with teachers and all students that **they** really use their own vast powers in a truly responsible way. If this reasoning be doubted, then these governing bodies could be asked several extremely serious questions: A) Do **any** of their members really pretend to know, (or even, do all collectively pretend to know) the full consequences, down on the individual level, of the curricula, the teaching methods, the living conditions, the financial stresses, all now in effect in this University,

and all hanging directly from **their** authority. B) Do **they** really know the **end** to which they are directing the teaching and even the operation of this University. C) Do they **really** want to **accept** the full consequences of using the vast powers entrusted to them mainly for upholding an economic establishment, a political and social establishment in this province and country. For, to a large extent, that is exactly what they are doing.

Men and Women of this University student body, **YOU ARE ON THE SPOT**. You could become excited and move out to destroy property and do other senseless things. And, you would prove beyond question that you are unfit to possess and wield power. You could confuse the issue, claim far more authority than that for which you have any competence, or even resent or reject all authority. Only idiots, would let themselves be caught in an irrational trap like that.

NO! Go out with dignity and control. Demonstrate how you value your time, opportunities, and responsibility. But, **very definitely** I say it: **“ARRIVE WITH POWER, ARRIVE AS POWER ARRIVES.”** You have made the beginning by stipulating a manner of negotiating that involves no very great disturbance of bureaucracy. **DO NOT BACK DOWN NOW.**

It would hardly be proper for me as a **member of Senate** to encourage such a confrontation. **BUT** I am here and I am speaking this way after deep reflection, as Spiritual Director of this University. Men and Women of St. Dunstan's, I see a torch being lit tonight. I see a day dawning tomorrow when learned, devoted men and women will start to sit down as partners with eager, courageous youth to review the past riches of their race and to map out imaginatively and freely its new endeavours, to scan the skies and the atoms, to attack ignorance, illusions, injustice wherever they find them. I see manly, independent followers of Christ, training to go out and rid the Christian churches of the shameful name of being the greatest fence-sitters of all in the face of moral crises, indifferent to abuses of the human dignity of their brothers all over the world. It's not being done now — but we could start it! And if we could sell that vision to the rest of this University community, it's hard to see how anyone could turn it down. And we would deserve a line at least on a golden page of the history of our University.

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