

The original documents are located in Box D15, folder “Union High School Commencement Address, June 11, 1958” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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UNION HIGH SCHOOL - 6-11-58

INTRODUCTION:

SINCE RECEIVING INVITATION:

Read Commencement addresses

Research ideas with Library of Congress

Covered waterfront.

Conclusion:

Emphasis on problems of past and present in world.

Emphasis on failures of past generations and what's wrong with "teen-agers" today.

Emphasis on criticism, implied or direct.



My remarks tonight, I hope, will emphasize a
different theme:

I want to talk with you about:

(a) Your fine school:

I've been impressed with it and
have some bruises to show for it
for the past 30 years.

(b) Your exceptional attitude and your
maturity:

- 1) Unity, honesty & sincerity
- 2) Motto - We bear each one our
own destiny.

Too often in these days we tend to accentuate the negative.

We should in contrast emphasize the positive.



What about your School:

I hope every one of the 266 who are being honored here tonight will forever proudly say, "I graduated from Union," and as you commence a new phase in your life look back with reverence and respect to the traditions, the faculty and your friends.

Many may know about Union's history, but let me review several major milestones:

a) A school on the site since 1854.

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c) Illustrious graduates:

 Melvin Anderson
 Frank Knox

d) Respected and responsible leaders in business, professions, and labor.

e) A faculty second to none.

 Clayton Bazuin
 Doc Ellingson

f) Athletic and other extra-curricular activities:

 Rocky Parsaca
 George Fulgoni

g) W.W. II - a) Students bought \$500,000 in War Bonds.

 b) 102 Union boys lost their lives.



What about your attitude as reflected in your school and class Motto, Class Song, and the principles emphasized by your class.

Unity - implies joining and pulling together for the common good, the joint benefit of all, but also the betterment of the individual. (cooperation)

- a) Union won city football championship because..
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- d) The U. S. and its allies prevailed in W.W. I, W. W. II because in union there is strength.
- e) The U.S. and its free world allies can preserve our Republic, our Democratic traditions and the inalienable rights of man by unity -

of Unification of Armed Services.

A Go It Alone philosophy which is the opposite of Unity is:

- (1) difficult for the individual and,
- (2) dangerous for our Nation.

*172 million vs 2 billion
of U.S. checks its responsibility*



Honesty:

Don't expect any in this group will ever be involved in serious criminal matters:

"The vast majority of our youngsters are upright, wholesome citizens. Unfortunately, the public reputation of this entire group of American Youth is too frequently jeopardised by the vicious acts of the relatively small percentage of youthful hoodlums."

Personal Statement of

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April 1, 1958; FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin.

But that isn't the important point - honesty in the smallest, day to day application is what really counts.

Story: Men who walked across the continent.



Sincerity:

All have seen examples of:

- a) Individual who is a fancy dresser.
(Aristocracy is of the soul, not the cloth)
- b) Individual who speaks eloquently.
(Can't tell the book by the cover.)
- c) Individual who spends much money.
(all that glitters is not gold)
- d) Individual who buys biggest house and car.
(What doth it profit a man if he gain the
whole world and lose his own soul)

"To thine ownself be true and it shall follow as the night, the
day thou canst not then be false to any man." - Shakesphere



We bear each our own destiny.

What you are saying is -- Don't pass the buck.

- a) Don't blame the ~~teacher~~ ^{coach}.
- b) Don't blame the ~~work~~.
- c) Don't blame your parents.
- d) Don't blame your friends.

Rev. Winfred Overholser, Supt. of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, stated last Sunday:

"Tranquilizers have proved invaluable in mental hospitals" - but he deplored their use by "reasonably mature people who should take frustrations and failures as spurs, not as defeats."

"The primary signs of social maturity are self-reliance and recognition of one's duty to others," Overholser stated.

Overholser termed the Golden Rule, "one of the soundest formulas for mental health."

Yes, you can always find fault, if looking for it - Scapegoat.

Let's not find scapegoat, but find opportunity.

Everyday is a day of opportunity.

As you commence a new era..

Don't listen to false prophets

Don't be disillusioned



Follow through, each one of you, on the guide lines -

Unity

Honesty

Sincerity

MOTTO:

While as your motto suggests, and I have stressed, this is primarily your individual responsibility, you will need help.

1. Family and friends.
2. Community organizations.
3. Government of all kinds.
4. God and His Church.

("Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
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"To thine ownself be true and it shall follow as the night, the
day thou canst not then be false to any man." - Shakespeare



We bear each our own destiny.

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- c) Don't blame your parents.
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As you commence a new era..

Don't listen to false prophets

Don't be disillusioned



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MOTTO:

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2. Community organizations.
3. Government of all kinds.
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"The selection of your class motto, 'We bear each one our own destiny', suggests that you are a class of mature individuals", Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Jr. told the members of the Union High School Senior Class at their Commencement exercises last night.

"What you are saying", Ford continued, "is, 'Don't pass the buck'. This is one of the major signs of social maturity. Along with a recognition of one's duty to others, self-reliance marks the truly mature individual."

Taking as his theme the class motto and Union High's slogan, "Unity, Honor, and Sincerity", Ford challenged the graduates to continue to stand by the principles which had guided them through high school.

"Let's not find scapegoats; let's find opportunity", Ford suggested in pointing out that everyday is an opportunity and that it is all too easy to listen to false prophets, to become disillusioned, and to blame someone else or something else for our own failures.

Addressing 266 graduates in the Civic Auditorium, Rep. Ford traced the history of Union High and urged each senior to always be proud to say, "I graduated from Union."

Pointing out that "Unity" means cooperation, the Fifth District Congressman insisted that a "go it alone" philosophy is most difficult for the individual and dangerous for our nation.

In discussing "Honor", the "H" in Union High School's slogan, Ford emphasized that he didn't expect any in the class to be involved in serious criminal matters but that the important thing was honesty in the smallest, day to day, activities of life. He quoted J. Edgar Hoover who stated recently that "The public reputation of/entire group of American Youth is too frequently jeopardized by the
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vicious acts of the relatively small percentage of youthful hoodlums."

In concluding his address, Ford told the graduates that they would need the help of many others if they were to maintain the high ideals they have set for themselves. He mentioned family and friends, community organizations, governmental units of all levels, and God and the Church as sources of assistance.



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Unity

Honesty

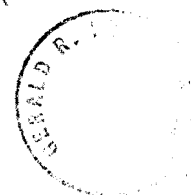
Sincerity

MOTTO: *We bear each one our own destiny*

While as your motto suggests, and I have stressed, this is primarily your individual responsibility, you will need help.

1. Family and friends.
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("Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." - Psalm 19:14)



Motto

" We bear each our own destiny. "

What you are saying is -- Don't pass the buck.

- a) Don't blame the teacher. - failures
- b) Don't blame the ^{coach} work. - not made the team
- c) Don't blame your parents. - reprimands
- d) Don't blame your friends. -

Do not blame others as you would have them do unto you,
 Rev. Winfred Overholser, Supt. of St. Elizabeth's
 Hospital, Washington, stated last Sunday:

Pills & potions

- "Tranquilizers have proved invaluable in mental hospitals" - but he deplored their use by "reasonably mature people who should take frustrations and failures as spurs, not as defeats."

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As you commence a new era..

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Don't be disillusioned

Don't stand back from life
 Be ready for the new Era - SPACE

Sincerity: Centuries ago one great philosopher
said to another - To thine own self be true

All have seen examples of:

a) Individual who is a fancy dresser.

(Aristocracy is of the soul, not the cloth)

b) Individual who speaks eloquently.

*Blat tongue
Clever phrases*

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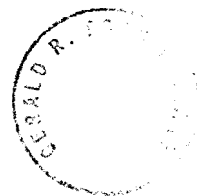
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Honesty:

Naturally

Don't expect any in this group will ever be involved in serious criminal matters:

As a matter of fact

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Story: Men who walked across the continent.

The sand that got in my shoes everyday.



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*Unity
Honor
Security*

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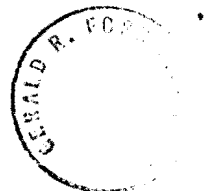
Disunion of Armed Forces -

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Today World has about 2 1/2 billion people -

800 million - Free World
800 " - Slavery
800 " - Uncommitted



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*Give class - tribute to those in audience
' audience - tribute to class.*



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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SERVICE

CERTAIN VERITIES: SELECTED ANECDOTES

Unity

The Lion and the Three Bulls

Three Bulls for a long time pastured together. A Lion lay in hiding in the hope of making them his prey, but was afraid to attack them whilst they kept together. Having at last by crafty speeches succeeded in separating them, he attacked them without fear, as they fed alone, and feasted on them one by one at his leisure.

Union is strength.

Source: Aesop's Fables. (A Selection of Sixty of the best known and most often quoted) c1894, p. 38.

Determination

This Being the Yarn about the Man Who Got Stuck in the Sand

No doubt you've all done as I did that day--got stuck in the sand. Or maybe the mud. It's much the same thing. It means you'll have to find some one to dig you out; that is, if you get stuck so deep you can't dig yourself out, or don't have a shovel, or a block and tackle, or something.

On that late summer's evening, the road I traveled crossed a sandy wash--and suddenly the wheels began to lose traction. I started to turn around; saw I couldn't make it; stopped; tried to back up; and then I stuck.

But this isn't the reason for my story. The point of my yarn is to be found in what the Neighbor said to me--the Neighbor who very graciously pulled me out for a meager donation of \$10.00.

Anyway, while he was digging me out he preached a little sermon on the ethics of driving a car through the sand. And he quoted something from



Tennyson, or Shakespeare, or the Bible—or maybe it was Emerson, to the effect that "in skating over thin ice, our safety is in our speed." Said if I'd just kept going I would have made it all right. The trouble was, I had stopped. And he showed me where, less than three feet ahead, the sand had hardened again. But the minute I stopped, I was sunk. Or rather my four wheels were sunk, which amounts to the same thing.

And so I suppose the lesson was worth the ten dollars, one way or another. For if ever I get into sand or mud again, I'll keep sludgin' away as long as the wheels will turn. The more I see of trouble the more I'm convinced the best way to get out of it is to wade right on through in the hope of reaching the high spots again. It's when a man stops, and tries to back out, that he generally gets stuck. And whether this philosophy is right or whether it's wrong, it cost me ten bucks and a lot of inconvenience to find it out. So I'm passing it on for what it's worth.

Source: Edwards, E. I. Desert Yarns. 1946, pp. 5-6.

How Napoleon Crossed the Alps

About a hundred years ago there lived a great gen-er-al whose name was Na-po'le-on Bo'na-parté. He was the leader of the French army; and France was at war with nearly all the countries around. He wanted very much to take his soldiers into It-a-ly; but between France and Italy there are high mountains called the Alps, the tops of which are covered with snow.

"Is it pos-si-ble to cross the Alps? said Na-po-le-on.

The men who had been sent to look at the passes over the mountains shook their heads. Then one of them said, "It may be possible, but" --

"Let me hear no more," said Napoleon. "Forward to Italy!"

People laughed at the thought of an army of sixty thousand men crossing the Alps where there was no road. But Napoleon waited only to see that everything was in good order, and then he gave the order to march.

The long line of soldiers and horses and cannon stretched for twenty miles. When they came to a steep place where there seemed to be no way to go farther, the trum-pets sounded "Charge!" Then every man did his best, and the whole army moved right onward.

Soon they were safe over the Alps. In four days they were marching on the plains of Italy.



"The man who has made up his mind to win," said Napoleon, "will never say 'Im-pos-si-ble.'"

Source: Baldwin, James. Fifty Famous Stories Retold. c1924, pp. 75-76.

Sincerity

Diogenes the Wise Man

At Corinth, in Greece, there lived a very wise man whose name was Diogenes. Men came from all parts of the land to see him and hear him talk.

But wise as he was, he had some very queer ways. He did not believe that any man ought to have more things than he really needed; and he said that no man needed much. And so he did not live in a house, but slept in a tub or barrel, which he rolled about from place to place. He spent his days sitting in the sun, and saying wise things to those who were around him.

At noon one day, Diogenes was seen walking through the streets with a lighted lantern, and looking all around as if in search of something.

"Why do you carry a lantern when the sun is shining?" some one said.

"I am looking for an honest man," answered Diogenes.

When Alexander the Great went to Corinth, all the foremost men in the city came out to see him and to praise him. But Diogenes did not come; and he was the only man for whose opinions Alexander cared.

And so, since the wise man would not come to see the king, the king went to see the wise man. He found Diogenes in an out-of-the-way place, lying on the ground by his tub. He was enjoying the heat and the light of the sun.

When he saw the king and a great many people coming, he sat up and looked at Alexander. Alexander greeted him and said--

"Diogenes, I have heard a great deal about your wisdom. Is there anything that I can do for you?"

"Yes," said Diogenes. "You can stand a little on one side, so as not to keep the sunshine from me."



This answer was so different from what he expected, that the king was much surprised. But it did not make him angry; it only made him admire the strange man all the more. When he turned to ride back, he said to his officers--

"Say what you will; if I were not Alexander, I would like to be Diogenes."

Source: Baldwin, James. Favorite Tales of Long Ago. 1955, pp. 88-90.

Honesty

Mercury and the Woodman

An honest, hard-working woodman was felling a tree on the bank of a deep river. In some way his hand slipped and his ax fell into the water and immediately sank to the bottom. Being a poor man who could ill afford to lose the tool by which he earned his livelihood he sat down and lamented his loss most bitterly.

But Mercury, whose river it was, suddenly appeared on the scene. When he had learned of the woodman's misfortune, he offered to do what he could to help.

Diving into the deep, swift-flowing stream, he brought up an ax made of solid gold.

"Could this be yours?" he asked.

"Alas, I wish it were," replied the woodman sadly.

Again Mercury dived into the icy-cold water and this time brought up an ax made of solid silver. But again the woodman shook his head and denied that the tool belonged to him. Mercury dived a third time and produced the identical ax which the man had lost.

Naturally the owner was delighted to see his trusty ax once more, and so was Mercury.

"You are an honest and a good man," said the messenger of the gods. "I want you to take the golden and the silver ax as a reward for telling the truth."

Thanking his benefactor, the woodman ran home to tell his wife of his good fortune. As the story spread, one of the neighbors rushed down to the same spot on the riverbank, threw his ax into the water, and began to moan and groan over his loss. Just as before, Mercury appeared, and learning



what had occurred, dived into the water and fetched up a golden ax.

"Is this the ax you lost, my friend?" he asked.

"Yes, yes, that's it," lied the man, greedily reaching for the golden ax in Mercury's hand. But just as he was about to grasp the ax of gold, Mercury said: "Not so fast, sir. You are lying, and to punish you for not being truthful, I am not only denying you this, but I am leaving your own ax at the bottom of the river."

Application: Honesty is the best policy.

Source: Aesop's Fables, (Illustrated Junior Library) c1947, pp. 3-4.

Christopher Dell
History and Government Division
April 11, 1958





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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE SERVICE

CERTAIN APHORISMS: SELECTED QUOTATIONS

Unity

"Give to all nations unity, peace, and concord."

-Book of Common Prayer (American Revision, 1928), "The Litany."

"The desire for unity, the wish for peace, the longing for concord, deeply implanted in the human heart, have stirred the most powerful emotions of the race, and have been responsible for some of its noblest actions."

-Sir William Osler, Aequanimitas (2d ed.), XXI, Unity, Peace and Concord.

"Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

-Psalms. CXXXIII, I.

"Pour the sweet milk of concord into hell,
Uproar the universal peace, confound all unity on earth."

-Shakespeare, Macbeth. Act IV, Sc. 3. Line 98.

"The movement from unity into multiplicity, between 1200 and 1900, was unbroken in sequence, and rapid in acceleration. Prolonged one generation longer, it would require a new social mind."

-The Education of Henry Adams. Chap. 34 (A Law of Acceleration).

"The bonds that unite another person to ourself exist only in our mind. Memory as it grows fainter relaxes them, and notwithstanding the illusion by which we would fain be cheated and with which, out of love, friendship, politeness, deference, duty, we cheat other people, we exist alone. Man is the creature that cannot emerge from himself, that knows his fellows only in himself; when he asserts the contrary, he is lying."

-Marcel Proust, The Sweet Cheat Gone. Page 47.

Source: John Bartlett. Familiar Quotations. 11th ed.



Determination

"He who considers too much will perform little."
-Schiller, Wilhelm Tell. Act iii, sc. 1.

"His way once chose, he forward thrust outright,
Nor stepped aside for dangers or delight."
-Abraham Cowley, Davideis. Bk. iv, l, 361.

"Be firm! One constant thing in luck
Is genuine solid old Teutonic pluck."
-O. W. Holmes, A Rhymed Lesson, l.282.

"All things are what you make them."
-Plautius, Pseudolus, l.578. (Act ii, sc.1)

Honesty

"He that loseth his honesty, hath nothing else to lose."
-John Lily, Euphues; Euphues and Eubulus.

"The measure of life is not length, but honesty."
-Ibid.

"No legacy is so rich as honesty."
-Shakespeare, All's Well that Ends Well. Act iii, sc. 5, line.13.

"I am afraid we must make the world honest before we can honestly say
to our children that honesty is the best policy."
-Bernard Shaw, Radio Address, July 11, 1932.

"Integrity is better than charity. The gods approve of the depth and not
of the tumult of the soul."
-Socrates (Emerson, Uncollected Lectures: Natural Religion).

Sincerity

"Private sincerity is public welfare."
-C.H. Bartol, Radical problems: Individualism.

"Every sincere man is right."
-Emerson, Essays: Natural History of Intellect.



"The only conclusive evidence of a man's sincerity is that he gave himself for a principle."

-J. R. Lowell, Among My Books; Rousseau.

"Sincerity is impossible, unless it pervade the whole being, and the pretense of it saps the very foundation of character."

-J. R. Lowell, Essays; Pope.

Source: Burton Stevenson. The Home Book of Quotations.

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