

# CONVOCATION SPEAKER .... wilson tells grads they are generation of protest

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## OPPOSITION LEADER HAROLD WILSON RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS.

He was born in 1916. He attended Jesus College, Oxford, where he gained a Gladstone Memorial Prize and an outstanding first in modern greats (philosophy, politics and economics). At the age of 21 he became lecturer in economics at New College, Oxford, and research assistant to Lord Beveridge. A year later he went as fellow to University College.

"Public life constitutes an uneven contest at best and Harold Wilson has given and taken, won and lost. But through it all, whether in power or in opposition, he has been a presence to be underestimated only at peril.

His years as Prime Minister were difficult ones for Britain but he lent his strength and courage, his wisdom and determination to the nation even as his illustrious predecessors before him. Tapping the proverbial capacity for endurance of the British people he urged his party and people to the long view while leading them deftly but firmly through an austerity expected by all but desired by none. The result was that once again Britain saw it through" said J. Condon, Dean of Arts, who read the backgrounds for Convocation degrees.

Three other distinguished educationalists received honorary degrees. Ronald J. Baker, the first president of the University of Prince Edward Island and Dr. M. Adelaar Savoie, Q.C., president of

the University of Moncton, received a doctor of laws degree. Dr. Karel F. Wiesner, research professor of chemistry at UNB and one of the world's foremost authorities on organic chemistry, received a doctor of science degree.

The university intelligentsia honoured one of their well respected own in granting the retired A.G. Bailey Professor EMERITUS which is awarded for extraordinary devotion to the university.

A man of profound and remarkably broad learning, he has been a brilliant and provocative lecturer, an adroit and humane administrator, an original and creative scholar in his discipline, and an erudite but also deeply emotional poet. None has done more to enrich the cultural and scholarly life of the university in the past half century than Dr. A.G. Bailey.

Also honoured was Dr. Louis Weisner granted a Professor Emeritus of Mathematics.

Dr. Louis Weisner, after a distinguished career as a professor of

mathematics in the United States, came to us in 1955 and quickly established himself as one of the most learned professors on our faculty.

A mathematician of international repute, his brilliant and creative scholarship has been an inspiration to all his colleagues and to his students. A devoted teacher of undergraduates and a dedicated supervisor of graduate students, he has contributed enormously to the intellectual development of the whole university for a period of fifteen years.

During his address, Mr. Wilson went to great lengths to plug the popularity of the Commonwealth of Nations and encouraged the new graduates to keep a distinct respect for the ties of the past such as the Commonwealth.

"No organization in the world apart from the U.N. itself knows better the realities that lie behind all the issues which dominate world politics today. The problem of human rights, of race and colour,

The problem of poverty and inequality.

These are problems which beset domestic life in almost every individual country. But still more it is these two inter-related problems, race and colour, poverty and inequality, which have now dominated international relations, world relations," he said.

Recognize that we are members of a great Commonwealth community where advanced countries such as your country and mine have a responsibility to play a full part in the revolution which has overtaken the world within our generation.

For this is a revolution which underlines the duty which each of us has to provide for the development of countries which for centuries have lived in hunger. But one which means equally that our community and the world community cannot survive, still less prosper, unless we assert the essential freedoms. The freedom from want and hunger, and above all the freedom contempt, said the Ex-prime Minister.

This must be our answer to a world in which the old conflict between nations has become outdated.

Early in his address he told the assembled graduates that he was also a member of the protest generation and that they did not necessarily have all the claim to working for change.

"To disagree with particular doctrines or political theories is not to deny their value in making men think.

Each generation of undergraduates will create or adopt their own gods, and fashion their own ideals. But that does not prevent the vast majority of our students combining with their individual political views,

a binding loyalty to the multi-racial Commonwealth and to the world Community.

You represent a generation of protest. If it were not so, it would be profoundly disappointing.

I belong to a movement dedicated to protest, a movement which also has claimed and will claim again all the responsibilities of government. Those who have graduated in philosophy will have learned, as I learned, that intuitions without concepts are blind, concepts without intuitions are empty and hollow. In the 1970s in which we live, equally, protest without responsibility is blind, responsibility without protest is empty.

Warning against irresponsible protest Mr. Wilson cautioned repeatedly that students not forget that everything was grounded in economics.

In a very real sense, we live in a world where the ordinary man feels helpless when facing remote and almost overwhelming economic power. It is true in our continent of Europe, it is true in your American continent.

It is the duty of those who go from this University and other Universities in the world, be they graduates in industrial efficiency, be they graduates in the social services, be they graduates in the humanities, "to defend the individual against the insolence of that economic power."



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