

Hands, Demanding Futures West Executive Officials

Chancellor

Text of speech

Some months ago I received a telephone call asking if I would permit my name to go before the Selection Committee having the responsibility to find a new Chancellor for the University of Alberta. I felt honored that even one person would feel I would be a suitable candidate for this position. My association with the University to that point in time was four years as a student where I discovered many new worlds of interest. I learned of discipline and became exposed to an exciting environment of challenge and learning. Some years later there followed an exposure to this University arising out of the outstanding relationship that exists between the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists & Geophysicists of Alberta and the engineering faculty of the University of Alberta, and a more current interest as a father who has two sons attending this University.

I am deeply honored to have been selected to serve as Chancellor of this great University and thank the Senate for placing this level of trust in me.

During the past few months I have attempted to prepare myself for this new responsibility by learning about the role of the Senate and the challenges, opportunities and concerns of this institution. I have met with a broad cross-section of those involved with the University—students, members of the Academic Staff, Board of Governors, Senate, University Administration, and have been most impressed with the dedication, the leadership and strong commitment of those serving this University.

In my brief remarks this evening I would like to share with you certain objectives I have set for myself as Chancellor of the University of Alberta:

The Senate

I will have a close association over the next four years with the members of the Senate. The Senate serves as a point of access where any concern about the University will be listened to and acted upon as is appropriate. I have been most impressed with the dedication of the members of the Senate—their level of commitment and the work that has been carried out by the Senate and the Senate Task Forces. I wish to give special recognition to a very major contribution made by Louis Desrochers who gave strong leadership in reactivating the Senate of the University of Alberta, and to Bill Thorsell who served so effectively as the Senate's executive officer.

The Senate stands between the University and the public, seeking to stimulate issues of concern into aid in their resolution. The Senate has a standing invitation to interested members of the public to utilize the Senate when they wish to make a contact with the University and do not know where to turn. The Senate seeks advice on how the University might better meet the needs of the people it serves. The Senate is not a protagonist on issues, its role being to deal in terms of perceptions and to focus attention on issues.

I look forward to working with the members of the Senate, focusing particular attention on how Senate members can be better equipped to play an even more effective role in building bridges between the University and the people it serves.

University and Government

There is a feeling within the University community that government is trying to gain a measure of control over the University which would interfere with the University's independence, its ability to seek truth and to share knowledge.

The government's role of accountability to the public requires an honest commitment to effective communication between government and the University.

Toward this end I would like to see representatives of the University and government meet in an environment of mutual respect to discuss openly University and government needs and how we can develop a basis of effective communications between University and government. As Chancellor of this University I will work toward, and place high priority on, such effective communications.

I will also give my full support to the University's right to pursue truth, to take positions that may not be popular with government or others, to provoke and to challenge, and I will encourage those within the University community to take a more deliberate role in enquiring into major public issues.

I would hope that in the months ahead we will see the Provincial Government clearly setting out what it expects of the University of Alberta and from other post-secondary institutions serving the people of this province, and would hope the government would encourage constructive comment and criticism on its objectives and its programs.

Understanding the University

As Chancellor and a member of the Senate representing the public interest, I will encourage effective leadership in Alberta through the University taking a strong position in the development of effective research programs. Coupled with this is a need for recognition within the University that the public it serves does not understand the value of basic research. The public must become more aware of how a commitment to basic research:

- is essential if our University is to be competitive in attracting academic leadership;

- is essential if this University is to provide a stimulating and exciting environment for learning;

- is essential for maximum economic and cultural benefits in developing the potential of our natural resources and our human resources.

Student Identification

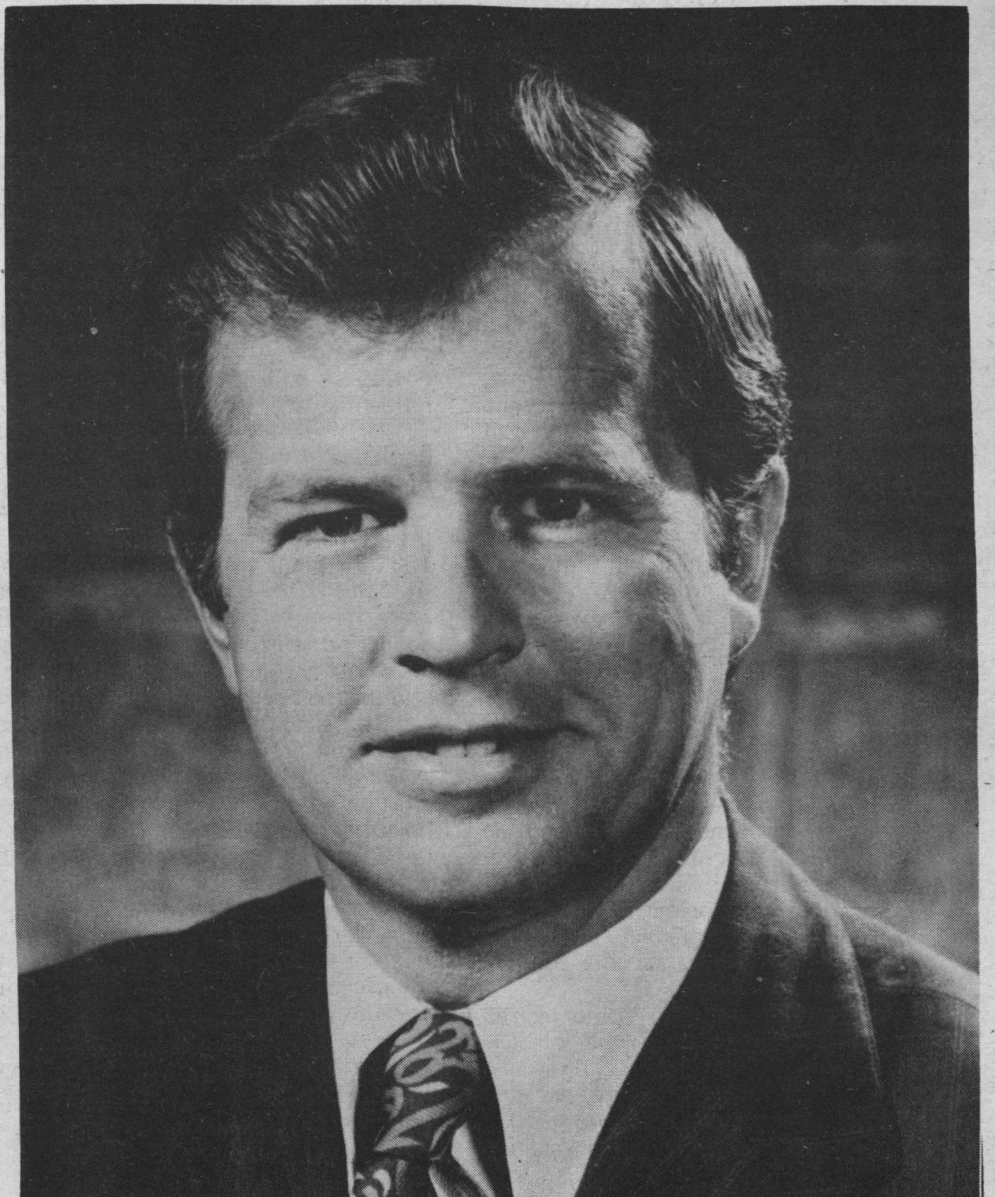
In talking with students I have found lacking in certain areas a sense of belonging and identification with the University. I hope as Chancellor I can work with the student body to find how we can provide for greater student identification with the University and how we can provide the student with a more stimulating experience and opportunity for personal growth.

Investment in Alberta's Human Resources

Some months ago I read a newspaper article having the title "Human Brain is the Best Investment for Alberta Wealth". This article pointed out that investment in education is probably more advantageous than investment even in industrial and economic development and I quote—

"This is because the human brain, the human mind, and the human imagination are the most miraculous and plentiful tools and resources in existence. Yet most of the marvellous tools and resources are hardly developed or exploited beyond a tiny fraction of their potential. And these incredibly delicate and powerful tools and resources can serve our economic and physical needs, as well as our cultural and spiritual needs.

"Physical resources may become depleted to exhaustion. And industrial plant and equipment may wear out or become obsolete or inadequate. But the creativity of brain and mind and imagination may rescue us from difficulty or impoverishment by devising new processes and conceiving and unleashing new wealth and power. Furthermore, the creativity of brain and mind and imagination can make significant, with satisfactions and challenge, the living that economic activity is intended merely to



Former Chancellors

1918-26

Mr. Justice C.A. Stuart

1926-27

Mr. Justice N.D.D. Beck

1927-41 Dr. A.C. Rutherford

1941-46

Mr. Justice Frank Ford

1946-52 Dr. G. Fred McNally

1952-58 Dr. E.P. Scarlett

1958-64

Mr. Justice L.Y. Cairns

1964-70 Dr. F.P. Galbraith

1970-74 L.A. Desrochers

1974- Mr. R.N. Dalby

Biography

Ronald Dalby was born in Edmonton in 1929 and received his education here. A 1952 graduate of the University of Alberta (bachelor of science), his first three years in business were spent as a

resident manager in the marketing department of Imperial Oil Limited.

In 1955, he joined Northwestern Utilities Limited as an assistant distribution engineer.

Mr. Dalby held various managerial positions in Northwestern and its sister company, Canadian Western Natural Gas Company Limited, until 1967. He was appointed vice-president of the companies in 1968 and a director in 1969.

He was assistant vice-president of I U International (the parent company of Canadian Utilities) from 1967 to 1972. During that period he served as chief executive officer of a group of I U companies with emphasis on revitalizing those companies experiencing financial or managerial problems. Additionally, he presided over three I U International's sub-companies and chaired another.

Mr. Dalby is now executive vice-president of Canadian Utilities Limited, and is responsible for the operation of three major utility companies: Northwestern Utilities Limited, Canadian Western Natural Gas Company Limited, and Alberta Power Limited.

His work extends to community affairs and includes being director of St. Stephen's College, director of the Alberta Northwest Chamber of Mines, a charter member of Grace United Church and a member of council of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce.

In 1963 and 1972 he was a member of Alberta trade missions to Japan.

Mr. Dalby is married with four children — two attend the University of Alberta. In his leisure time he enjoys flying, skiing, fishing and hunting.

He sees his role and the role of the Senate, which he now heads, as that of "an enlightened intermediary between the university and the public."