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FOR A LIFE-LONG EDUCATION

We have come together this morning to celebrate in some formal way the event we have designated as the transition. The idea is not new to some people, but the ceremonial to emphasize its significance is necessary and under the present conditions in our country, pressing and urgent. It is intended to dispel the old and common notion of a farewell to a finished record of intellectual activity that need not be revived. It is precisely meant to remove from our minds the thought that the acquisition of knowledge has an ending and in its place to instill in us a stronger and deeper consciousness of the value of the eternal search for truth.

The feeling of academic self-satisfaction, mental fulness, and spiritual smugness many graduates have on receiving their diplomas or degrees should be discouraged and repressed, otherwise the incentive and motivation to self-improvement may be reduced and even smothered; and the degeneration of the human mind and spirit is likely to follow.

Thinking men and women working and living in progressive countries all over the world are now fully convinced that man's need for learning is not unlike his need and thirst for water. The thirst is unquenchable as long as he lives. The desire and urge for knowledge cannot be measured and satisfied by such mechanical means and arbitrary terms as the passage of a number of years to be spent in a school or the number of books one has to read in college. — V. G. Sinco, *April*, 1968.