

Lester M. Wolfson
Chancellor
Indiana University at South Bend

REMARKS
Fourteenth Annual IUSB Commencement Exercises
Century Center; May 13, 1980

Distinguished platform group, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, and particularly all those for whom this is their very own special day--members of the Class of 1980:

Time is variously reckoned by various calendars, with 1940--both a short and a distant four decades ago--being the significant beginning date in the modern evolution of Indiana University at South Bend. In that year, the first regular appointment was made to what has since become a body of over 200 full-time faculty and professional staff members. Although at times the struggle for funds, for buildings, and for the establishing of degree programs had aspects of the forty years wandering in the desert recorded in the Old Testament, there never was--nor is there now--any serious doubt that a promised land of abundant higher educational opportunities would be reached in our part of Indiana. From no degree program specializations little more than a dozen years ago, IUSB now offers over 70, nearly all of which are represented in your completion of prescribed courses of study--an accomplishment justly recognized in these civilized and civilizing ceremonies tonight.

Your pleasure in this climactic hour is shared not only by the families and friends who in their support over the long years have watched and waited with you, but also by your instructors, whose commitment to their and your learning has resulted, through your responsiveness, in a relatively large number of them having been awarded major all-University distinguished teaching awards. Given the strong devotion to teaching which marks all of our eight campuses,

that is no mean honor, and reflects our promise at IUSB to embody as best we can in our instruction the characteristics of the ideal teacher--clarity, knowledge, flexibility, enthusiasm, and sensitivity.

Without any of us minimizing understandable concern about jobs and careers, we might from time to time commend to those who doubt the inherent value of formal education what Thomas Jefferson said in Notes on Virginia: "Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves therefore are its only safe depositories. And to render even them safe, their minds must be improved to a certain degree.... An amendment to our constitution must here come in aid of the public education."

The skeptics might also be referred to what Thomas Henry Huxley wrote in A Liberal Education: "Education is the instruction of the intellect in the laws of Nature, under which name I include not merely things and their forces, but men and their ways; and the fashioning of the affections and of the will into an earnest and loving desire to move in harmony with those laws."

President Ryan, it gives me the deepest satisfaction to present to you, for your charge and the conferring of degrees, the 755 members of the Indiana University at South Bend Class of 1980.

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Of the 755 degree candidates, 416 earned bachelor's degrees, 259 master's degrees, and 80 sub-baccalaureate degrees and certificates.

Other key participants in the ceremonies were Donald C. Danielson, of New Castle, chairman of the IU Board of Trustees; Howard T. Batman, of Terre Haute, president of the IU Alumni Association, and Sabrina L. Lozier, of South Bend, president of the IUSB Student Alumni Council.

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