Lester M. Wolfson
Chancellor

Remarks
Fifth Annual Indiana University at South Bend Commencement
Morris Civic Auditorium; June 9, 1971

President Ryan, Mr. Widaman, ladies and gentlemen--and particularly those whose day this mainly is, graduating students of the 1971 class: the exercises this year are the first held outside our own IUSB auditorium, where only four years ago our first class numbered 31 students. Today you graduates number more than 500, and you nearly double the slightly less than 700 students who have gone before you in our four previous commencements. We have outgrown our hall, but I trust the time will never come when any of us outgrows his abiding faith in the value of the shared efforts in teaching and learning which lead to such happy days as this.

Before President Ryan confers your degrees, let me consider you still technically IUSB students, so that in my few minutes you may be willing to indulge me in some final academic allusions and analogies. A famous fictional student, Stephen Dedalus, hero of James Joyce's book, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, once wrote in a column in the flyleaf of his geography text, first his name, then in ever widening concentric contexts, his place in a kind of spatial eternity:

Stephen Dedalus
Class of Elements
Clongowes Wood College
Sallins
County Kildare
Ireland
Europe
The World
The Universe

Stephen's initial sense of security in having located himself so precisely gave

way to his feeling small and weak when he brooded over what might enclose the Universe itself. And so for him, as for all of us, reasonably comfortable notions of where we are physically evolve into questions of how we find our proper psychic space. As an aid to answering such questions, graduation, I would guess, provides a kind of prismatic window through which one looks back on what he has been and forward to what he hopes to be. It provides also a focussed moment that suggests again the mystery of how a complex of feelings which is uniquely oneself can at the same time respect the accumulated tradition of enlightened human experience, a tradition gathered in the major institutions and achievements of our society--home, school, church, science, literature, art, and song.

If we have done well by you in our years together, you will have a sense of place, of competence and mastery--but you will also have a modest sense of how, in so many critically important matters, as it was stated by the eminent psychologist Gordon Allport, "our knowledge is a drop and our ignorance is a sea." Further, if we have done well by you, you will have achieved--or be on the way to achieving --an equilibrium or balance that enables you to laugh at some of your excessive enthusiasms or faddish ideas that there is a quick key to the resolution of notoriously vexed problems. Here one might think of the lack of knowledge and self-knowledge which characterized the student who said of her college experience, "I can't tell you how much I enjoyed my existential anxiety."

Among the graduates today--all equally valued by those of us who have had the high privilege of serving as your teachers--appear our first graduates in dental hygiene. They represent part of IUSB's special effort to discover new fields for

training which will meet the evolving professional needs of the last three decades of this century. As we overcome what is anachronistic and self-defeating in older elitest notions of the purposes of a university, and as we continue to strive to give the dignity of humane intellectual concern to all our programs now and to come, we may realize John Ruskin's hope that "all professions should be liberal, and there should be less pride felt in peculiarity of employment, and more in excellence of achievement."

Finally, citing Ruskin once again as he states an ideal increasingly necessary in our often contentious era, we hope that your experience here has kindled your capacity, not for damning, but for admiring, since admiration is "the power of discerning and taking delight in what is beautiful in visible Form, and lovely in human Character; and, necessarily, striving to produce what is beautiful in form, and to become what is lovely in character."

Mr. President, I take profound pleasure in presenting to you the Class of 1971 for the conferring of degrees.