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REFLECTIONS UPON RETURNING

(Delivered at an IUSB Faculty Meeting, February 8, 1980)

When John Lewis asked if I wished any special format for this part of today's meeting I perhaps too quickly suggested that he schedule these remarks as "Reflections Upon Returning." Since then I've had a little trouble with the specific meaning I intended for "returning." I have returned to office; I have returned from Europe; I have returned (in part) from a six-month psychological distancing that has lent renewed enchantment to my view of life's possibilities. Moreover, I think that maybe I am now grown old enough to understand what Tennyson's Ulysses meant when he said,

> I am a part of all that I have met,
> Yet all experience is an arch wherethrough
> Gleams that untraveled world whose margin fades
> Forever and forever when I move.

Like the lover in John Donne's famous poem, for me absence from accustomed haunts and duties and affections was not a breach, but an expansion. And I understand more than ever what William Hazlitt felt in saying "I should...like well enough to spend the whole of my life in traveling abroad, if I could anywhere borrow another life to spend afterwards at home."

I feel my psyche in some small but significant way was changed in Rome on Friday, September 21, 1979, the day of the eve of Rosh Hashonah--the Jewish New Year--when, as I rode in bus 64 on the way to St. Peter's and the Vatican Museums my traveler's checks were stolen. Comforted by the thought of Karl Malden, later that same day I met a smiling official in the

American Express office at the Spanish Steps who with little delay replaced them all. I then walked some five or six doors away where the Keats-Shelley Memorial occupies the house Keats arrived at over 150 years ago in vain search for something far more precious than lost checks. The Pieta, the Basilica, the Sistine Chapel, the sense of a holy day coming, being robbed, looking out the window through which Keats last looked--what a compression of world, fate, and time into something akin for me to Blake's having seen eternity in a grain of sand!

The day before, on a beautiful morning, I was the only one present at the Protestant Cemetery. There, in viewing Keats's grave, with its moving inscription ending "Here lies One/Whose name was writ in Water," I thought of the time more than twenty years earlier when at the Lilly Library in Bloomington I had read one of Keats's letters to Fanny Brawne in which he said to her, with poignant understatement, that he was not getting any better. And Shelley's tomb a few score yards away, with its lines cited from Shakespeare, "Nothing of him that doth fade,/But doth suffer a sea-change/Into something rich and strange," recalled <u>his</u> letter, also in the Lilly Library, wherein--ironically as it turned out--Shelley praised the shipbuilder for the sea-worthiness of the ship in which he shortly thereafter drowned.

There were lighter considerations too. The staggering ruins of the Coloseum prompted me to write Jerry Harriman and the gang on the second floor-front asking if we <u>really</u> wanted a "multi-purpose recreational facility." And from Blarney Castle in Ireland I wrote one card home saying that I had seen, but not kissed, the legended stone for fear of 1) contracting a meretricious disease, and 2) falling.

I carried no camera, but I did keep a diary reflecting on the Santa Croce Church in Florence, where Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli, and Rossini are

buried; the Borghese gardens and gallery in Rome; the Louvre; Versailles; the Rodin Museum; the Paris Opera with its incongruent but gorgeous Chagall ceiling, where Joe Peyser and I saw a splendid Faust; the special greenness of Ireland, made magical by soft suffusing rain; Dublin's fair city; the Scottish Highlands; Notre Dame, Coventry, Exeter, and Winchester Cathedrals, as well as dozens more overwhelming in their concept and execution; the Lake Country so rightly loved and celebrated by Wordsworth and Coleridge; Edinburgh, Plymouth, Bath, Stratford, and Windsor; the inexhaustible treasures of London. And everywhere the all-pervasive sense of history, both cruel and kind.

I know that your similar experiences have confirmed in you, as they did in me, an awareness of how critical our enterprise as educators is, as we study the tradition of art, intellect, and social order; contribute to it; and convey it to our students and society at large. At first try, in routine or the fog and traffic of struggle and contention that smother the spirit, it may be hard to relate what in some measure are holiday impressions to on-going daily effort. That, too, requires some perspective afforded by standing back and summing up.

At IUSB we have such an opportunity this very year occasioned by the forthcoming reaccreditation visit in April by the North Central Association. The self-study required by that visit, building on the results of the "IUSB: Toward the Future" discussions of last year, presents a convincing picture of a campus doing many things remarkably well, and fully aware of ways and means to do them better. Many of you have contributed to that effort, skillfully co-ordinated and written by Karen Rasmussen, and recently sent off to the appropriate places. In time all of you here will have a personal copy or ready access to the complete report. The narrative now completed is lucid and comprehensive, documenting accomplishment and purpose in which

we can all take pride. A few selected representative excerpts will demonstrate:

> Since 1975 faculty from the Division of Business and Economics have published four books, reviewed manuscripts for five national journals and guest-edited one of them, held fellowships from the Lilly Endowment and the Brookings Institute and consultancies or other positions with the National Aeronautical and Space Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the State Department's AID Program.
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> The Division of Music has hired faculty who bring national reputations with them and who continue to perform to that same high standard after joining IUSB. Six of these faculty have toured extensively, both in the states and abroad. Our pianist-in-residence has performed and recorded in London, for example, and in 1978 our former member of the Hamburg Opera sang a series of recitals in Italy. Also in 1978, The International String Quartet played forty concerts outside of South Bend and contracted to record the complete Mozart String Quartets for Vox Productions.
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> Arts and Sciences faculty are correspondingly productive within the scholarly requirements of fourteen different disciplines. Members of the Chemistry Department have presented eighteen papers over the past five years, two of them at overseas conferences. Mathematics faculty have published 14 papers since 1977-78, and Philosophy faculty, 13. Since 1977 two historians have published books. One member of the English Department obtained a 1978-79 Lilly Endowment fellowship to study film-making. National Science Foundation grants went to a mathematician and a philosopher. Members of the History and Communication Arts departments received NEH fellowships for 1979. One historian received the Leverhulme Prize for 1978-79, another received the Rome Prize, and two colleagues became co-editors of the Biography Series sponsored by the Conference on British Studies. In collaboration with Continuing Education an Earth Sciences faculty member obtained federal funding for "Project Effect," an energy conservation education program; as a result of the reputation which IUSB acquired through that project's activities, the campus has received additional funding to establish a regional Center for Energy Conservation.

To the fine record of scholarship and disciplinary performance that distinguishes the IUSB faculty can be added the pleasingly significant fact that in the past eight years, six of our colleagues have won all-University distinguished teaching awards--a number greater than that from the five other Indiana University regional campuses combined.

Our accomplishment deserves, and gets, unrelenting if not always successful advocacy from the officers charged with securing the support that a continuing first-rate effort needs, as well as the added support necessary

to bring things not yet first-rate to that status. We should know very soon the level of improvement to be expected for 1980-81 over already existing appropriations and other sources of income. And the 1981-83 biennial request and justification to be completed later this year will define once again as vigorously as our collective brains will allow what the tremendous benefits of higher education are, and what commitment, both in finances and understanding, should be made to it.

As to the unfinished business at IUSB of private fund-raising--first, I have recently spoken with President Ryan about our desire to develop staff as soon as possible in the most appropriate way to lend assistance to such an effort once we have met our responsibility to state both the short- and long-range goals of this new thrust. He is sympathetic. Such delay as there might be will be occasioned only by the need to wait resolution of thinking going on even now about the dimensions of a major campaign that will involve the entire University. Secondly, I have invited Mr. William Armstrong, President of the Indiana University Foundation, to come to South Bend in the latter part of March to meet with the fifteen-person Foundation Board whose membership we plan to announce coincident with Mr. Armstrong's visit.

Another concern that has caused understandable anxiety and impatience, particularly in the last year and a half, should soon be disposed of. My understanding is that in early September the Associates engaged Arthur Andersen and Company to study the question of how the computer operation presently housed in our red brick building could best be continued and located. My further understanding is that the results of the study will be presented in Dallas next week. Our position, of course, remains exactly what it has always been. We needed a library; we still need one--worse than ever; and we expect to have one, either in the accounting building or in a new structure--properly placed--that will be as good as, or better than, what we can already count on through the decision to buy that we made five years ago.

There is another element in our position, also consistently held and announced: as citizens of our region, we want to do everything we prudently can to make it possible for the Associates to stay in our community. But we will not deviate in any way from our intent to have as scheduled the higher educational facilities vital for the well-being of north central Indiana not only now but for untold generations to come.

Thinking that there may be several things of interest to you that I have not touched upon, I have intentionally left these prepared remarks briefer than those I have given every fall from 1964 to 1978 when, the time and the purpose of the meetings being somewhat different, questions were not part of the proceedings. Before I invite such questions as there might be, let me here make public record of my deep gratitude to Dean Harriman and to Dean Rasmussen for their conduct of two offices, rather than one, in a way that made it possible for me so comfortably to take so extended a leave. I know that what they did was abetted mightily by the efforts of this faculty, in overall capability and dedication second to none in our University system. I am most happy to be back with you, and to repeat this morning what I said on September 19, 1964, early in my first talk as then-Director and Assistant Dean: "I have no adequate words to state my pleasure at the prospect of serving Indiana University with you in the future."