TO THE GRADUATES OF 1932
IN THESE DIFFICULT YEARS

The past four years may seem brief to you as you look
back on them in retrospect, but they not only constitute a
considerable fraction of your lives, but also a strategic
period from the standpoint of your future living and thinking.
You will find it profitable in future years to recall memories
of your college days, and in those memories discover many of
the well-springs of your social, intellectual, and spiritual
lives.

Many of you have struggled against all but insurmountable
financial difficulties. Having worked my own way through
college, I know something of the problems you have faced, but
had I met the financial difficulties which have confronted
some of you I doubt very much if I would have completed my
undergraduate work. Future depressions for you, even though
they become ever bigger and better, will probably bring few
new lessons of great value on how to live more economically.

There are some people today in quest of every possible
trace of fun or folly on college campuses with a view to
heralding it as typical of college life, who, if they knew one-
half the story of struggle that goes on today on practically
every campus in the country, would be much nearer the truth
than all their search for so-called student follies will ever
bring them.
A few of you have married during your stay here, and others seem to be making progress in that direction. Traditional and archaic opposition to the normal social conduct of students in this regard has been based on educational and social fallacies too obvious for serious consideration. Such opposition still produces an occasional erroneously called secret-marriage, which no longer has any reason for justification save as the personal preference of those concerned. I extend my most sincere congratulations and best wishes for a happy life to those already married, and likewise to all those who may be contemplating that important step.

Many of you have, while here, experienced some of the thrills and probably more of the thuds that attend efforts at leadership in the student body. If you still crave more of this type of experience, it probably awaits you in almost any American community which you may enter. Those seeking a quiet and peaceful life should in my judgment be slow to enter the political arena in this country for some time to come. I shall pass over your musical, dramatic, forensic, and athletic activities with the observation that many of you have in these fields brought great credit to the University and have also realized from them much of value for your own personal development.

As graduates I invite you to continue your interest in and loyal support of the University. I have extended this same invitation to five graduating classes of past years, but
judging by the number of those who attend alumni reunions and support the important activities of the Alumni Association, many of them have not accepted the invitation. In extending it to you I also most earnestly renew it to them and to all graduates along with a plea for more earnest personal assistance to the University in these admittedly difficult and discouraging years.

You have now received your diplomas, intended to be a measure of your intellectual achievements. They are admittedly a very imperfect measure, but they are the best we now have. If any of you have won them through any form of dishonesty you have already lost something of infinitely greater value than any college diploma from any university. If they represent a genuine attainment of a higher level of cultural life, they become for you the symbol of something already achieved, which should always serve to stimulate your efforts toward other worthy forms of human achievement.

To every one of you with personal affection and good will, I extend best wishes for a happy and successful life.