INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT -- THE UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH

A special convocation, devoted to our obligation in fields of research should not be considered as indicating that we are either indifferent to, or unmindful of other important obligations in the fields of vocational, professional and cultural instruction. As a matter of fact, in recent years the faculty has devoted most of its time and energy to the problem of improving the basic instructional program of this institution. It was decided on this occasion to concentrate our attention upon our research obligations, first, because we recognize that it is a duty of every University to add something to existing knowledge; and that unless this obligation is accepted, the institution becomes a parasite by continually using the knowledge which others have supplied.

The group of men whom we honor tonight, and whose presence here bestows honor and distinction upon our institution and our state, have added much to the knowledge of this state and this section of our country, and the University of New Mexico has resolved not only to recognize their scholarly achievements, but if possible, through its faculty and student body, to follow the worthy example which they have set for us.

In the second place, we center our attention upon research, at this time, because of the mature conviction that unless the instructional program of a University is carried on by men and women who, in the true spirit of research, are constantly seeking new knowledge, that program will have no adequate power to quicken the intellectual lives of its students. We are thoroughly convinced that the paramount duty of stimulating the intellectual life of the
young people of our state can never be performed by men and women who are not themselves intellectually alive. The occasion, therefore, gives opportunity to us to face the challenge of the highest preparation for our own instructional tasks.

Thirdly, we believe that there is serious need of the application of knowledge, gained through pure or applied research, to the problems which require solution in our own state and region. The University, supported by public funds, seeks, on this occasion, to recognize its special obligation, to engage in those selective and practical types of research which will assist in the solution of these problems which engage the public interest and affect the public welfare. In these reasons this special convocation finds it explanation and justification.

I shall now make certain general observations regarding the research policy of this institution, which will be supplemented by more detailed suggestions as to procedure in certain fields of research by the distinguished scholars who follow me on this program. Since New Mexico is not a wealthy state, and its University is neither large nor rich, it would seem unwise to seek consciously to duplicate the work already being done by larger and wealthier Universities or by private research foundations. It will continue to be advisable to cooperate fully with all Federal Governmental Agencies and departments of state government in any worthwhile research which they may undertake. Furthermore, because of limited funds, the research which we initiate should be limited to certain fields of study for which we have well recognized advantages both as to library and laboratory facilities.
There is in this environment abundant materials for intensive study in the history, customs, language, literature and art of at least two great racial and cultural groups of mankind, the Indian and the Spanish. The one race has its roots in ancient and even in prehistoric culture while the other springs from medieval civilization. Both share a common environment with a third racial group which records its crowning achievements in our modern industrial era. In the growth and development of these separate cultures, with their blending and intermingling trends and influences, we have an unsurpassed human laboratory challenging us to the study of the long sweep of man's life and struggle from ancient through medieval times until it becomes a part of the present world scene emerging in the form of the so-called New Deal of this present moment.

Our field of concentration in research therefore should include anthropology, archaeology, Spanish, New Mexico and Southwestern History, and regional studies in other social sciences which have direct bearing on our own social, economic, educational and political conditions.

New Mexico, and the far Southwest, constitute one section of the nation which has many unique conditions worthy of special consideration and study. Our landscapes with their mountains and mesas are different, and our population with its diverse racial elements refuses to be fitted into the wish-picture of the standardized American business man. The development of our life here does not follow along with the agricultural ideals of the middlewest, neither does it find a satisfying pattern in the industrial concepts of the east. Our environment, our history, and above all,
our diversified racial and cultural elements, provide us first hand a laboratory in the humanistic and social sciences upon which we may well concentrate our best efforts.

In this connection, it should be clearly understood that in stressing this one group of studies, there is no desire to close the door to individual research in the biological and physical sciences or in other fields, since exploration in these sciences may indeed afford unusual opportunities for coordinating and clarifying studies which may be made in the field in which concentration of effort is suggested.

We do not contemplate a program of research that is ambitious either in scope or in volume. Our efforts may not speed up very much the general research program of the social sciences which seems to strive in vain to keep pace with that of the natural sciences. We may not make any unusual or sensational contributions to human knowledge, but by seeking knowledge in this interesting and inviting human laboratory, we shall surely quicken our own intellectual life and stimulate our students to larger intellectual, cultural and spiritual attainment. Furthermore, we hope to render more effective practical service to the state in its efforts to find better ways of meeting the more important issues pertaining to the general welfare of its citizens, with which it is at all times confronted.

In the University we are endeavoring to study these questions not from any single racial or cultural point of view, but from the point of view of the total population. An outstanding Navajo Indian received his baccalaureate degree today alongside of a Pueblo Indian young woman of high mental qualities. Increasing
numbers of young people of Spanish descent are graduating every year, many of whom are continuing their work for the master's degree, while two have just recently completed their studies leading to the doctor's degree in larger Universities. The number of advanced students with the inheritance of the Indian and the Spanish cultures is increasing. These students will face the study of the problems of our state in company with our advanced students of English descent and all of them will work together in our classrooms, libraries and laboratories, with an intellectual and spiritual purpose which embraces the good of all. This unusual opportunity for cooperative study of the past and of the present, by our own New Mexico students of varying racial and cultural inheritance, is one of the most challenging features both of our instructional and of our research obligations.

In seeking to lay the foundation upon which to build this modest but exceedingly important research program, already we have been encouraged and assisted by other Universities, by research foundations and by private individuals. Substantial aid has been given by the Carnegie Corporation for the improvement of our library facilities. The General Education Board has contributed liberally toward the support of the San Jose Experimental School. Senator Cutting has helped finance San Jose, has supplied important educational scholarships, and has given liberally to further our folklore studies. Studies in Etho-Botany have been subsidized in past by the National Research Council. The School of American Research has contributed generously toward our archaeological and anthropological work, and along with the State Historical Society has made possible our archive work in Spain and Mexico. The Laboratory of Anthropology has provided instruction in Indian
Art, while the members of the art colonies of Taos and Santa Fe have helped by giving their time and talents to assist our general art instruction program on the campus, and in the field school held at Taos each summer. Members of faculties of numerous Universities have worked with us in our Summer Sessions and in our various Field Schools. Our regular and special University publications are exchanged for the publications of other universities and research organizations, thus strengthening our library facilities.

To those institutions and individuals who have thus assisted us, I wish to express the grateful appreciation of the Regents, the faculty, and the students of this institution. I think we may be reasonably confident of further aid in the development of our future plans if they are soundly conceived and give adequate promise of success in advancing knowledge or in promoting human well-being.

During the last few years this institution has sought to conserve the resources of the state by means of the New Mexico Science Commission, through cooperative plans with other state and national agencies, and in some important instances by definite University ownership and control. Our pride in these valuable resources along with our desire to conserve them lies chiefly in their importance as educational assets to the youth of New Mexico. We most heartily welcome all scholars to this field, and pledge assistance and cooperation of every kind that we are able to give. The prehistoric remains of ancient man and of ancient animal life, the historical archives, the linguistic and cultural materials, the present sociological and other important data here in our
midst are in no wise regarded as our exclusive possessions. They belong to all students everywhere, who can use them to advance human knowledge. Neither through selfishness nor vanity do we seek to dominate the fields of research embraced in the unusual and in many ways remarkable laboratory to which I have referred. I trust that the present program of conservation, motivated by the earnest desire for thorough cooperation in all scientific undertakings will be continued as the guiding element in the policy of the University and of the State.

The administration and the faculty of the University share the views of our business men and other state leaders who cherish the desire to see New Mexico achieve a greater degree of economic independence through commercial and industrial progress. We witness each year, even in normal times, many of our young people seeking in vain for remunerative employment in the state. If through any kind of purposeful planning we expect to improve this condition, we shall need more facts regarding our economic resources, and these facts can be discovered only through study and research. We doubtless have many citizens who would not look with favor upon the expenditure of state funds for research; nevertheless, thoughtful citizens will surely agree that we need more knowledge of New Mexico itself, and of its income producing potentialities, if we are to achieve greater economic independence. Even our standard advertising for tourists is admitted to be in need of revision.

Industrial research laboratories in all sections of the country pay dividends, but of the 1600 such laboratories in the United States, an average of more than thirty for every state
in the Union, there is as yet not a single one located in New Mexico. The University desires to be of assistance in the struggle of the state for greater economic independence and believes that this desired goal can be reached most easily by encouraging the desire for greater intellectual independence. It is clearly recognized that "brain trusts" in any quarter constitute no sure guarantee for the permanent solution of our difficulties, but on the other hand the more intelligent citizens of the state and of the nation would probably advocate the application of more rather than less gray matter to the problems which confront us.

By means of selective practical studies we shall strive in the future to render more effective assistance to state officials and departments, to business leaders and others who have sought and who are now seeking the counsel of the faculty in formulating economic, conservation, governmental and educational policies.

A well-known leader in fish and game conservation in the state observed recently after a conference on certain phases of that work with a representative of the University faculty, "We have been playing this game by ear; from now on we must play it by note." In too many activities of our state life the game is being played by ear, with great difficulty, where by more careful study, it could be played far more easily by note, and the results in harmony and efficiency would pay us abundantly for our study.

In stressing the importance of research on this occasion, permit me to say again, that we shall not shirk other very impor-
tant obligations. We are earnestly striving with the resources which we command to prepare young men and young women for life and for useful leadership in New Mexico. Along with other states New Mexico has its share of citizens easily swayed, biennially or oftener, by weak and uncritical emotional appeals. It also has its quota, along with other states, of that order of political priesthood who seem to think it both patriotic and profitable to make such appeals.

The University rejoices in the opportunity of seeking to develop a larger number of leaders who will rely more on mature intelligence, and a larger body of citizens who will respond more favorably to the more intelligent appeals. To this purpose we dedicate our research efforts, earnestly hoping for their effectiveness in the discovery of truth, in the stimulation of intellectual life, and in the initiation of better and more practical ways of improving conditions of life for all of our citizens.