

COMMENCEMENT REMARKS-

T. CREECH

Thank you, President Tillmans

Graduates, Parents, Alumni, Faculty---many fine and honorable guests

I am glad to be able to join my old friend, colleague and mentor-Henry Neely- in making a few remarks today. I am always pleased to have a part in the Commencement Ceremony at "this college" but today is special for I know most of you and there are some thoughts that I want to share with you.

I referred to "this college" instead of *Kansas College of Technology* or *Kansas Technical Institute* or *Schilling Institute* or even *Kansas State University at Salina* because this college is unique and has always been a very special place no matter under which name banner it has served.

One might ask "Why is this college such a special place?"

Because this college is a collection of very special people. It has always seemed to attract some of the most sincere, serious and dedicated people. Many have graduated, established themselves in a career field in technology and have performed so well that "this college" now has an excellent reputation.

During the last few weeks two Kansas Universities have been in the national spotlight because of their excellence in basketball and debate. Their recognition was justified and we are glad for

them. Basketball teams earn public attention because they have dedicated people working in harmony--working to win. Winning debate teams are composed of talented and disciplined people who are able to perform. Graduates of "this college" have been recognized and respected for these same reasons.

The international society will continue to increase its' commitment to this type of education because it has become clearly evident that the quality of life and national strength is very much tied to technology. "This college" enjoys a fine reputation in todays technological society because the programs here are sound and the graduates have performed to give the college a good reputation---and you--todays graduates, will continue to add to the fine reputation of "this college" because you are women and men of integrity. I am confident that you will also be outstanding performers.

The first commencement at this college was May 26th, 1968. Ten young men walked across the stage that day. They were truly pioneers but they created a positive image in the industries which they served. Many men and women have crossed the stage since that day. They have reinforced that positive image. Each year as graduates cross this stage we see new faces but beyond the face is the same old spirit and attitude that has earned this college its hallmark of success in the industries of America. I see that same spirit in you.

My life has been spent in the academic arena. In more than 30 years in this work I have appreciated many compliments from former students --brief words of thanks for my part in shaping their lives. Let me thank you, graduates and alumni, for it has been your interest and success that gives meaning to my career. Although the faculty hasn't asked me to speak on their behalf, I believe that I reflect their feeling when I tell you that a professors' greatest reward is to see the achievement of their students and graduates.

Today is your day of glory! This is your College---Your Alma Mater--no matter what name it has gone by or what name it will assume in the future. This college is special and will continue to be special because of you and those before. You can be assured that others will follow in your steps.

Remember this day as a special occasion but continue to strive for success in your career field. The captains of industry already know, or will soon learn, that you have a meaningful education. It is your discipline and integrity that will carry you in your career. Keep that in mind and you will go far.

Thank you very much. May each of you enjoy success in your chosen career.