



Addresses at Annual Meeting 1941

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FRANK PHILLIPS
Chairman Phillips Petroleum Company

Petroleum In Its Relation to the Present World Crisis

FRANK PHILLIPS, CHAIRMAN

Phillips Petroleum Company
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

The Superintendent of your Society asked me to speak tonight on the subject "Petroleum In Its Relation to the Present World Crisis." As Chairman of the General Committee, District No. 2, of the Petroleum Industry Committee, I have had opportunity to make a first-hand study of our industry's functions in the present crisis. Beyond all question, the present war will be won by the nation that has the largest supply of oil and can make the best quality of motor fuel. Never before in the history of the world has a war been fought to such an extent with, as well as for, petroleum. Much of the strategy on both sides has been dictated by the need of oil.

We oil men haven't done much talking publicly about our business since the headless ghost of the NRA Blue Eagle haunted us for 112 days at Madison, Wisconsin, during the oil trial of 1937-38. Few industries have been slandered, harassed, prosecuted and persecuted as much as the oil industry. But we have a story to tell of the vital importance of oil, its history and remarkable development, a story so impressive that I am proud to be an oil man.

Oil goes back beyond the dawn of history. I am no expert on the beginnings of history, but I have supported anthropological and archeological work in Oklahoma. In my own museum, I have a collection of many exhibits and objects that portray the unwritten history of America, the records of those who lived here many thousands of years ago, as well as in the recent past.

It is my understanding that the antiquity of man in North

Address at Annual Meeting, State Historical Society, September 27, 1941.

America goes back some 25 to 50 thousand years. Here in Nebraska, Yuma points have been discovered at random by farmers. The excavation at Scottsbluff has established the existence of man as a contemporary of certain animals which are now extinct, while the excavation at Signal Butte is one of the oldest definite evidences of man in North America. The Folsom discovery in eastern New Mexico and eastern Colorado indicates the presence of man at an even earlier period — as early as 50,000 years ago according to some geologists.

Both the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska Historical Society have made remarkable contributions to our knowledge of prehistoric and historic man. Of this I have some information, because Nebraska's Upper Republican Culture, identified by Dr. Strong, is also found in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Publications on the Proto-Historic and Historic Pawnee that were the result of joint work by these two institutions were used as reference in the reconstruction of a model village now on display in my museum. In the last twenty years there have been systematic excavations which have made the prehistory of Nebraska the best known of any of the Plains states.

In the history of man 50,000 years is impressive and fascinating. In the history of oil, such a period is almost momentary. The youngest oil we produce is probably at least four or five million years old.

There are several theories on the formation of oil, but the generally accepted one is that sea and plant life of millions of years ago, trapped under immense pressure and subjected to heat, formed the oil we are now producing from a mile or more beneath the surface of the earth. The oil business, as we know it today, only started in 1859 when Edwin Drake, an ex-railroad conductor, drilled a 69½-foot well and brought in a gusher of 33 barrels. However, man has used petroleum products since the earliest days of which there is any definite record.

Small clay images with wigs of asphalt were found in excavations in Mesopotamia in strata which dated several thousand years B. C. Nebuchadnezzar used asphalt for paving and cementing, as did the Romans. Marco Polo noted that the Chinese used natural gas for a fuel. The American Indians

attributed medicinal properties to the crude oil which they found seeping from the ground in small quantities.

[Strangely enough, until the attack on Pearl Harbor revolutionized all business, the oil industry faced some of the same problems created when the first well was drilled in 1859.]* At that time oil, skimmed from streams in small quantities, was sold as medicine and harness oil. Drake's 33-barrel gusher caused overproduction, for 33 barrels of medicine and liniment a day were more than the market could absorb. Consequently, the price broke. Chemists were called in to solve the problem. They were asked to find some use for this greasy, evil-smelling product. After exhaustive laboratory experiments, they found that the oil could be deodorized and that by distilling it they could produce a satisfactory burning oil for lamps. Later, they found that the residue could be used as a lubricant. Thus the oil industry was born.

More wells were drilled, pipelines were laid and refineries built. Then in rapid succession followed the automobile, truck, bus, and airplane, while science continued to develop new products that could be made from crude oil and new uses for these products. In eighty-two years Drake's single well has become 390,000 producing wells, many of which are more than 10,000 feet deeper than Drake's first well.

Contrast, if you will, 1859 and 1941. Imagine, if you can, the calamity that would result should the supply of petroleum and its products be suddenly stopped. The lights would go out, the water would be shut off, the fire department would be helpless, transportation would be paralyzed, thirty million trucks, automobiles, and buses would sputter and stop. Factories of all kinds would shut down for want of lubricating oil. Railroad trains would stop, airplanes would fall, ships would flounder helplessly at sea for lack of fuel and lubricants. The national defense would crumble, for tanks, airplanes and motorized equipment are helpless without gasoline and lubricating oil. Our navy would rust at anchor, and every wheel in the nation would stop.

The industry's most rapid growth has been during the last twenty years, paralleling the spectacular increase in the use

* Passages enclosed in brackets indicate 1943 additions to the 1941 address.

of the automobile. At the outbreak of the first World War there were one and one-half million automobiles in the United States. When the Armistice was signed, four years later, there were six million. Today there are more than thirty million automobiles and trucks on the streets and highways of the United States — one for every four persons, and petroleum is the fourth largest of our American industries.

The United States leads all other nations in petroleum science, because oil is truly an American industry. Although we have only 6½% of the world's population, we have 71% of the world's automobiles and use 71% of the world's production of gasoline.

In the early days of oil development, locating new oil fields was about as scientific as crystal gazing. A peach twig or doodle bug was the accepted method of hunting new reserves. New fields were opened up simply because of some oil man's lucky hunch. Later, possible oil-bearing structures were located by geological surface indications such as outcropping of rock strata. These crude methods, however, provided little reliable information about structures far beneath the earth's surface. But scientists, in their never-ending search and study, soon designed new equipment, new instruments, and new methods of finding oil.

One important development has been the use of the seismograph, an instrument which for years has been used in laboratories to record earth tremors. The seismograph is a recording device which, in modern oil usage, measures the depth of underlying formations. This method does not actually locate oil, but it does determine whether or not there is a structure that might contain petroleum.

Today, oil-bearing structures are located with greater accuracy than ever before, and the nation's known oil reserves are higher than at any time in the history of the industry. As new locating methods and devices are perfected, new oil pools and more reserves will be found. It is not unlikely that oil will eventually be produced from a part of every state in the Union.

Late in 1939, Nebraska joined the ranks of oil-producing states, of which there are now twenty-three. Although the history of oil in Nebraska is brief, the state yielded approximately 247,000 barrels of oil in 1940. From our knowledge of the pe-

troleum geology of the state, the prospects are that Nebraska will assume an important place in the production of crude oil. It may not be as prolific as Oklahoma or Kansas, but it will produce a lot of oil over a considerable area.

[In war, as well as peace, oil is one of our leading industries. No factor can contribute more toward winning this mechanized war than full utilization of the oil industry's potentialities. Few — if any — industries have met the war crisis more effectively, though none had to adapt so great a variety of operations. Tens of thousands of tank cars, normally operating in interior areas, were shifted to East Coast service when submarine attack and need for tankers elsewhere terminated ocean movements of crude and finished products to large East Coast consuming centers. Through numerous expedients, coupled with notable performance on the part of the railroads, this alternative movement of products was performed far beyond initial expectations.

New pipe lines were built; some were reversed in direction of flow, others were relaid or enlarged to remove bottlenecks. River traffic north and east was greatly expanded. Refinery yields were altered without promise of relief through appropriate price compensation. The industry reduced its gasoline yield to 39.7 per cent of a barrel of crude as compared with 44.0 per cent in 1941. At the same time, fuel oil yields were increased from 37.5 per cent to 41.2 per cent.

Behind our busy factories and plants are the vast oil reserves of America. No other nation is producing as much oil as we are nor has the refinery-capacity to equal our volume of finished products. We hear frequent reference to the oil wells of Europe, but the total production of all the countries occupied by the Axis is indicated at only about 146,000 barrels a day. This country's production during 1942 averaged 3,796,000 barrels a day, and because of accelerated military requirements will probably exceed four million barrels during 1943.]

In the quality of products created, we are far ahead of other nations. Ordinary motor fuel such as you burn in your car has an anti-knock rating of 75 octane, while most commercial aircraft use a gasoline of 87 to 93 octane. America's latest type military planes use gasoline of 100 octane, the highest that has

heretofore been manufactured in commercial quantities. We are now manufacturing this high-octane fuel in increasing quantities, and its use opens the way for greater engine power without increase in size. Used in a modern 87-octane engine, this super-fuel can increase power output by fifty per cent without a comparable increase in weight. This additional power may be used for increased speed, increased payload, or longer cruising range, all of which are vital factors in our future aviation development, especially of war planes. Speaking before the National Petroleum Association, Wright W. Gary, director of refining in the Office of Petroleum Coordinator, recently said, "The battle of democracy is being fought on many fronts, and on all of the fronts 100 octane aviation gasoline must be supplied by our own refining industry."

[Last year the United Nations gained air supremacy in several important theaters of war. American and British factories proceeded to step up production of planes, and the higher octane fuel now being supplied by this country has given the allied air-force the added advantage of better performing aircraft.] Bombers now being built in the United States can fly from England to Berlin, drop their deadly burdens and return without refueling. Using 100 octane gasoline, which is available in large quantities only in the United States, flying fortresses can now cruise far above the range of anti-aircraft guns and most enemy aircraft. The English report that four grades of gasoline have been found in German planes falling into their hands. The octane ratings have been 65 - 75 - 87, and in only two cases as high as 100 octane. One of the two German planes using 100 octane was the one landed by Rudolph Hess.

No one can predict the ultimate size of the American air fleet and what its gasoline requirements will be. But it is estimated that to keep 8,000 bombers and 4,000 pursuit planes (about half Germany's total air strength) in the air for only five hours would require seven million gallons of gasoline, or nearly half the monthly gasoline consumption of the entire State of Nebraska.

Such a volume of consumption does not take into account the millions of gallons of gasoline, diesel oil, and fuel oil used by other motorized equipment, ships and submarines.

[More 100-octane aviation gasoline for the allied air forces and more vital synthetic rubber for our war needs can be made

as a result of a revolutionary new catalytic process called *Isoversion*, recently discovered in Phillips Petroleum Company's research laboratories. Isoversion changes petroleum products, formerly of almost no value in the war program, into products that are vitally needed in large quantities to make 100-octane gasoline, synthetic rubber, and other critical war materials.

The Company has also developed a new catalytic conversion process, called *Cycloversion*, through which lower grades of automobile gasoline or other petroleum distillates are changed into a product which, when blended with other aviation stocks, greatly improves the flight performance of the finished aviation gasoline. The important feature of this process is in its increased production of 100-octane gasoline, although with this product it is also feasible to make other fuels which greatly exceed existing standards.

This valuable new development will be made available to all companies authorized by the government to use the process in the war program.

The flexibility of the Cycloversion process, both in regard to type of feed stocks which it will successfully handle and to final products which can be manufactured by slight alterations in operating conditions, is an important advantage under today's fast-changing war conditions and for the post-war future.

As a third important step in meeting the nation's requirements for aviation, Phillips completed and put into operation in the latter part of 1942 the first large commercial plant employing a recently developed process for the production of 100-octane aviation gasoline blending agents.

This plant, designed and built by Company engineers to utilize an HF Acid Alkylation Process developed within our organization, employs an entirely different catalyst than is used in other alkylation processes. Appreciable savings may be effected in the use of many critical materials and scarce refrigeration equipment through the use of the new process, and certain design features of the Phillips plant have been incorporated in HF Alkylation plants built by others.]

There are literally thousands of products, from chewing gum to road material, that are made, or can be made, from petroleum. It is oil that runs your cars, flies your planes and lights your

lamps; also kills your flies, cleans your clothes, ripens your fruit, and puts you to sleep in the hospital for an operation.

From natural gas we can make a variety of plastic materials from which thousands of articles can be manufactured. It is likely that petroleum will not only supply the gasoline and oil for airplanes, but the materials with which to manufacture these planes and the explosives for them to drop.

[An important development has been the manufacture of synthetic rubber from petroleum. Not generally known is the fact that long before Pearl Harbor, Phillips Company was engaged in the quantity production of butadiene, which is the basic component of synthetic rubber. In addition to being the first large-scale producer of synthetic rubber from petroleum materials, the Company's affiliate, Hycar Chemical Company, also made more synthetic rubber from butadiene during 1942 than any other manufacturer in the nation. This production is filling a most critical need prior to the completion of large Government plants now under construction. The company has now in the course of construction one of the largest butadiene plants in the entire Government program, which is aimed at relieving the serious rubber shortage by producing synthetic rubber at a rate exceeding pre-war imports of natural rubber.

These amazing developments have been brought about through the expenditure of millions of dollars by the oil industry itself. Phillips Petroleum Company alone employs more than a thousand trained technicians who are constantly developing new processes and new products, and this is typical of the entire industry.]

Some people would have you believe that the oil industry is a giant octopus, a monopoly owned and controlled by unprincipled Wall Street money barons, rolling in wealth that they obtained by robbing widows and orphans and bilking the public. But let us see what this great blood-sucking octopus has done to the people of the United States.

Since 1926, the year used by the Government for comparison of price statistics, the retail price of gasoline in the United States has been reduced 34 per cent. This is equivalent to a saving to motorists of nearly two billion dollars a year on the nation's present gasoline consumption. Of course, you motorists

have not realized the full benefit of this saving because the oil industry's tax bill has grown until it is now approximately one and a half billion dollars, more than triple the net profits of the industry. Oil, which pays eleven per cent of our total taxes, is one of the biggest tax payers in the country.

According to the latest bulletin of price statistics issued by the Government, the wholesale price of all commodities was 87 per cent of the 1926 level. Yet our present wholesale prices of petroleum products are only 60 per cent of the 1926 average.

[In peace time the oil industry gave year-round employment, with perhaps the shortest hours, to over a million people at average monthly wages higher than in any other comparable industry. In addition, it purchases billions of dollars' worth of material and services from other industries. Last year we increased the number of hours worked per week by employees, as this, together with the employment of women for light manual operations, was regarded as the most effective solution to the problem of providing additional and necessary manpower.]

Now let us see who this "octopus" really is. The oil industry is owned by some two million stockholders and bondholders. Our company has over 41,000 stockholders, nearly half of whom are women. They live in every state in the Union and some foreign countries. Two hundred forty of them live right here in Nebraska. Perhaps some of them are in this audience. I may be talking to some of my bosses.

Now that we know who the "octopus" is, let us see how much money he made. During the past ten years, three per cent was the average rate of return on investment in the oil industry in the United States.

During the eighty-two years of its life the oil industry has grown from a medicine business to one of our largest and most important industries. It has continued its growth and progress even during depression years, and has reached its present stature without shooting, plowing under, or otherwise destroying any of our natural resources; and without one penny of help in the way of subsidy from our national government.

At the expense of millions of dollars in scientific research, the industry has conserved our national oil reserves. It has constantly improved its products and reduced their cost. In this

hour of crisis in our national affairs, America has turned to its great manufacturing plants, its great industries and industrial leaders for help. The oil industry, for one, was ready for the emergency and more than willing to turn its energies to the country's service.

The scientific progress and the growth of the oil industry, alike, are the result of personal ambition inspired by the opportunities afforded under our American system of free enterprise. This system our forefathers fought to establish—this system we will fight to maintain.

Nebraska as a Petroleum Producer

A brief supplement to the remarkable address by Frank Phillips finds proper place at the end of his discussion.

From George E. Condra, Director of Nebraska Conservation Survey, we have information from a report by E. C. Reed, Assisstant State Geologist, as follows:

"Oil was discovered in Nebraska on November 1, 1939, when the Pawnee Royalty Company's Boice No. 1 well, about three miles west of Falls City (NE 1/4 NE 1/4, Sec. 18, T. 1 N., R. 16 E., Richardson County) was drilled into the Hunton formation but the development of the area took place during 1940. After a pumping test lasting eighteen days, the Boice well stopped producing and failed to qualify for the State bonus of \$15,000 offered for the first well to produce 50 barrels per day for sixty consecutive days. On May 9, 1940, the company's Bucholz No. 1 well was completed about half a mile southeast of the discovery well and flowed at the rate of about 330 barrels per day, easily meeting the bonus requirements.

"In addition to the discovery well (which later was reconditioned) and the bonus well, 28 producers were drilled in the Falls City field during 1940. Of these wells, 23 are in Section 20, two are in the northern part of Section 29, two in the southwestern part of Section 17, and three in the eastern part of Section 18, all in Township 1 north, Range 16 east, Richardson County. The present proven area of the field is approximately 690 acres, extending for a distance of 2 1/4 miles from north-northwest to south-southeast and having a maximum width of about 3/4 mile."

Nebraska Oil Production in 1941

"Ninety wells were completed in Nebraska during 1941, of which forty-two were producers. One of them was the discovery well of a new field. All of the production to date is in Richardson County. At the close of the year fourteen wells were drilling and three more were shut down for orders, hoping for future development of production.

Most of the drilling activity was in Richardson County, which had sixty-eight operations: Ten wells were drilled in Nemaha County, five drilled or drilling in Gage County, three each in Otoe and Furnas counties, two each in Cass, Harlan, Johnson and Sarpy counties, and ten wells were completed or drilling over the remainder of the state."

During the year 1942 Nebraska had about eighty-five producing wells and a production of about 1,250,000 barrels.

Consolidated figures of Nebraska oil production are as follows: In 1940, 274,680 barrels; in 1941, 1,886,920 barrels; in 1942, 1,250,000 barrels. Total, 3,407,600 barrels.

World-Wide Refueling for Cargo Planes

In the plans being made by Standard Oil it is expected that super-planes will be built to carry the vast cargoes of war and post-war years. The company estimates, for the nation, 3,500 of the lighter cargo planes in service in January 1943, but anticipates 18,000 within the year, augmented by 1,000 of the mammoth type. Only a few of these latter, capable of replacing ships for fast freights in fighting fronts, have been built thus far. Their efficient operation will require fuel supplies all over the world, and this means the spotting of 100-octane plants near to the sources of supply.

Most light types currently in use, according to the company, consume one to four tons of fuel for every ton of cargo carried. Most of the gasoline must be taken by tank ship to stopping points, tying up one to four tons of shipping for every ton of air cargo. The economy of locating high-octane refineries at strategic points is apparent.

(Digest of AP dispatch in *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald*, 3/9/43.)



HON. DANIEL GARBER

Member Nebraska Legislature 1923; 1939-41-43

The Value and Service of the Nebraska State Historical Society

SENATOR DANIEL GARBER, RED CLOUD

The Nebraska State Historical Society is the oldest state institution in Nebraska. Nebraska voted for statehood in 1866. Three constitutional officers of the state organized the "State Historical Society and Library Association" in Lincoln in 1867. This society was reorganized under its present name in 1878. Nebraska was fortunate in that her early state officials had a vision of the future needs and possibilities of such an institution. That vision has been extended by their successors.

It is a fact worthy of note that this Society was given an even start as a great department of state government in the literary field, and during these seventy-four years of existence has published upwards of one hundred volumes and 50,000 pages of interesting and instructive information on every subject concerning the land, the people and the spirit of Nebraska. All of which compares very favorably with the Nebraska Legislature during the same period in the publication of its law-making proceedings in each regular session.

It is with apology that I attempt to assay the Nebraska State Historical Society in the presence of its venerable and able director and secretary, who during his quarter of a century of service to this institution has contributed to its files upwards of a thousand personally written papers and has secured innumerable papers from other authors, thereby making this organization the glowing success it is recognized to be throughout the state and nation. I also recognize other contributors and supporters present.

Whenever I think of assaying, a personal experience bobs before my vision. More than forty years ago I was prowling around in the Rocky Mountains — just a plain cowboy decorated with a highly efficient Colt's 45-calibre pistol and a pair of spurs,

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and riding decidedly uncertain horses, in the cattle country. One day as I dismounted at a spring I observed a curious seam of white rock perhaps six inches wide running through the solid granite under the lava formation across the gulley, and reappearing up the mountain side. On examination I found shining yellow particles in this rock and also smoky streaks.

In previous years I had had a little experience in the placer diggings in the old Sutter's Mill District along the American River in California. By the way, I have talked with forty-niners who have scooped pure gold out of crevices in the bed rock with their camp spoons by buckskin-wallet full, and other forty-niners who have played poker with \$50 gold slugs where the stakes were stacked so high in single, double and triple stacks that the players, sitting erect, could not see over the top.

Now to get back to the spring: I hastily made up my mind that I had discovered one of those coveted contact veins of gold-bearing quartz such as every old prospector is forever looking for. I thought this might be another Comstock Lode.

I secured an extra good sample, and on my first trip when my boss sent me to Cripple Creek, about thirty miles away, with sample and pistol and spurs I strutted to an assayer's office. He held my sample in his hand and cynically turned it over and over, then looked at me.

"Where the hell are you from, anyway?" he growled. "You can find this stuff anywhere hereabouts by the wagon load. Guess you were looking for gold, weren't you? This is iron — pyrites of iron embedded in bull quartz."

"Well," I replied, "I'd guess I'm about half right, for I sure thought it was quartz."

In my attempt at assaying here today I may be unable to identify the gold, but I hope to be about half right.

The Nebraska Historical Society has branched out and become a great storehouse of unlimited, useful and entertaining information concerning Nebraska. Numerous fields of research have been worked over and recorded. Information from every available source has been compiled, and also stacks of information from other states along kindred lines.

From Indians, adventurers, trail-blazers and pioneers, to various lines of science, this Society has sought out information

and recorded its findings. Village sites and burial grounds of Nebraska's prehistoric men and their place in world chronology have been explored and recorded. In Nebraska this is one of the highly productive fields of research. The vast deposits of prehistoric animals have been explored and the dates of their habitation have been relatively fixed on the calendar.

The surface and the subsurface waters, the meteorological phenomena, the explorers, the Spanish Expedition, the Indian Wars, the homesteaders, the general development of the state — including the social structure, the political history and religious attitudes; persons, families, communities — all these have been recorded and indexed.

The files of all the current newspapers of the state have been kept up to date, which not only piles up masses of history for future generations, but offers a great reference library for the current generation.

This recalls to my mind the first ancient newspaper I ever saw. While in high school I found an old local paper of Virginia, all of which I read. But only an advertisement clung to my memory. This paper contained an illustrated public-sale bill. Among articles mentioned were "4 black niggers, 1 good dispositioned nigger mammy with extra good teeth, 1 four wheeled wagon with 3 good wheels and spokes and material for repair; 2 barrels of good corn whiskey 4 and 5 years old, and 1 full size cedar coffin." That advertisement sure said a mighty lot, and our advertisements of today may be as interesting a hundred years hence.

In addition to all the achievements above noted, the Nebraska Historical Society offers opportunity for Nebraskans to meet on common ground, make acquaintance and build friendships. The atmosphere of Nebraska's traditions, history and scientific research insures mutual hospitality secluded from social animosities, political frictions and financial worries.

In conclusion, I can name no subject relating to the land of Nebraska that has been ignored in the voluminous and illuminating records compiled by this Society and placed at the command of the public. Literary talent is being lured out of seclusion to increase the information.

In my judgment it is impossible for anyone to evaluate, in

terms of either barter or gold, the service of the Nebraska Historical Society. Suppose that tonight a fire would wipe out all its records and files. Could anyone estimate such a calamity? The very suggestion of such a possibility makes us gasp.

The Nebraska Historical Society might be termed the link between Origin and Destiny in this great state.

Education for Democracy

DR. BRYAN S. STOFFER, DOANE COLLEGE

To discuss the subject assigned to me in seven minutes is an impossible task. In this brief statement I shall limit myself to a few salient facts and principles.

In a Democracy the ultimate authority resides in the people. This authority is expressed through laws and representatives approved by them and not in an unorganized mob fashion. This democratic state has been defined in many ways. A statement of President Wilson in this connection is suggestive. He defined Democracy as a hope—"the hope that the individual is wise enough to know his own interest and good enough to make it that of his fellow men."

Any approximation of this goal necessitates the effective education of each citizen and prospective citizen. Public welfare suffers and indeed the state may be in grave danger if the individual is not given the best education of which he is capable. Equality of opportunity in education does not demand the same education for each person. Mass education has tended to do this very thing and hence the mounting tide of dissatisfaction. Uniformity is deadening and destructive of the rich possibilities of life in a free commonwealth.

If education in a Democracy, then, should aim at nothing less than the maximum development of each individual life, it is imperative that more attention be given to the discovery of aptitudes and capacities. Tests and techniques of every sort are be-

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ing tried. Some of them are proving to be exceedingly helpful. Much more must be done.

In this same connection an effective program of guidance and counsel is imperative. Successful work here should bring a sharp decline in the large number of failures at the college and university levels.

It is now clearly evident that brains and capacity are not distributed according to the wealth or status of parents. Too often the latter have determined the candidates for higher education. In Europe and Asia only a comparatively few students with superior minds have been drawn from the less fortunate classes. By and large, wealth and class status have been necessary to open the doors which admit to the halls of learning.

Even in our own land, according to investigation in several states, fifty per cent of those who are qualified mentally to receive higher education, are unable to enter college or university. This is a loss which democracy can ill afford. Totalitarian states are educating and directing their best minds for their own ends. Democracies will be superseded unless they do better. Intelligence will be an increasingly powerful factor in the future.

Such a program in Nebraska will mean aid to the economically underprivileged. The NYA is one such effort. New York State has operated another successfully for a number of years. The State Department of Education conducts examinations and grants scholarships tenable in any college within the state, private or public. The grants made are determined by the need of the student and in no case exceed the cost of tuition or fees. Superior students are thus encouraged to study within the state. Also the student is thus able to attend the college of his own choice. Of greatest importance is the fact that the superior student is trained for leadership.

A Democracy is also deeply interested in the kind of education which the student receives. All should receive training which will make them intelligent and effective citizens. All should pursue such courses as will enable them to realize their maximum possibilities for rich and full living.

Due to the high degree of specialization, the kind of vocational and professional training required will vary greatly. Henry J. Harrison, an able industrial leader and a member of the

President's Youth Commission, makes the following significant observation: "Technology, with its specialization of work, means that by far the larger number of all jobs can be filled with not more than five or six weeks of actual training, and while there will always be a demand for a small number of the very skilled, and a larger number of those of medium skill, the great mass of the work to be done can be carried on by those who have had little special training, if their general training for life and for work has been good." Our present defense effort clearly illustrates this point.

In some circles there is an undue fear of indoctrination. While I have no interest in totalitarian methods, I fear that democratic peoples have too much taken their heritage for granted and have been too hesitant in teaching the fundamental principles underlying their civilization and culture. If we do not give them something worth believing, others will teach them to believe without much consideration for the worth of the principles which are taught.

Of course education in a democracy should teach students to think creatively. Honest and free investigation will provide the basis for self-renewal and stable growth while autocracies with their controlled investigation stagnate. Democratic education will encourage increasing sensitivity, increasing resourcefulness, initiative and self-direction, and increasing self-discipline or control.

It will also reveal the moral and spiritual basis of democracy, namely, the infinite worth and dignity of each and every individual.

My Grandfather, Robert W. Furnas

BY SALLIE L. FURNAS *

I am indeed happy to be with you today. Both proud and happy to be a native daughter. For I was born on one of the Furnas farms west of Brownville, in Nemaha County. On two trips to Brownville recently I saw the large brick farmhouse where I was born, also the Methodist Church on the hill where my brother and I were baptized. History tells us this is the oldest church in the state. In the fall of 1892 my Father, Mother and I moved to Lincoln, that I might enjoy the advantages of the University.

I am not giving a formal address, as the program states, for I know that if my Grandfather were here, his wish would be that we just have a friendly chat.

He has been gone thirty-seven years. If he were living, he would be past one hundred and eighteen years of age. I feel that the Scriptural quotation: "Their works do follow them," is very true in his case. A man at the Capitol said to me recently, "No one person has done so much for Nebraska as Robert Wilkinson Furnas." At the Nebraska State Picnics in California, where I have lived for the past forty years, they refer to him as the "Grand Old Man of Nebraska."

My Grandfather was a Quaker, as many of you know. His parents died when he was very young, and a good old Aunt and Uncle brought him up. When he was about eight years old he gave a speech in the country schoolhouse. At the close a man shook hands with him and said, "Young fellow, some day you'll be Governor." He was gifted in that particular way, for I never knew Grandfather to be at a loss for words. He was always fully prepared and could speak at any time in any place and on any subject.

He was a deeply spiritual man. I attribute this to his Quaker ancestry. From a child, I remember sitting on the arm of my

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ROBERT WILKINSON FURNAS
Governor of Nebraska 1873-1875
First President State Historical Society

Grandmother's chair while Grandfather read to us from the Bible. You may see his Bible in the glass case, marked "Furnas Collection," in the Historical Museum at the State Capitol. He would turn his swivel chair away from the desk and kneel there to pray in tones soft and low, so each one of us felt the very presence of God in that room.

My Grandfather was a man of simple tastes. No furbelows for him! He always rose at five in the morning and was at his desk writing until seven, when breakfast was served. Then he drove to his fruit farm, with his faithful "Dot" trotting along behind. He always came home with crates of fine seasonable fruits and vegetables, and did much shipping to all parts of the country.

During the time Benjamin Harrison was President (1891), Grandfather was called to Washington to consider a place in the Cabinet as Secretary of Agriculture. I remember the day he packed his bags and I saw him leave for the train. But, in his modest way, he preferred to reject that appointment and stay in Nebraska with his flowers, bees, fruits, and — most of all — the trees he loved.

Right here I feel it is fitting that I pay tribute to my Grandmother. She was a teacher in the schools when my Grandfather married her. A woman of fine tact and intelligence, with the most remarkable memory I ever knew. She met with a serious accident which left her practically an invalid for the remainder of her life. In trying to save a neighbor's child from a burning house she tripped, fell and injured her spine. Through the best years of her life she was totally blind, by reason of cataracts on both eyes. But her courage and her faith sustained her, and to the day of her death she was mentally keen and alert, silently sharing in the misfortunes and successes of Grandfather.

On a recent visit to Brock for the Sunday program in Coryell Park, a white-haired old gentleman came up, shook hands with me, and said: "Did you know that your Grandfather was the founder of Arbor Day? I was there. I know." I replied, "Yes, I knew it. The family all knew it."

My Grandfather was Governor at the time, so his friend, Sterling Morton, presented the bill and Grandfather signed it. The creative spirit within him kept whispering, "Plant trees!

Plant trees!!” However, if Grandfather were living today he would say, “Let Morton have the credit.”

One of the finest things Grandfather ever did for Nebraska lay in the many years he served as Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. Untiring in his efforts for a successful Fair each year to the day of his death, he was loyal and faithful to his beloved Nebraska.

I always knew when Grandfather was blue and worried, for then he would start singing. Bless his old heart! — he did have enough cares and worries to break down the strongest man. His favorite songs were “Old Black Joe” and “O Dem Golden Slippers.” He could outsing us all. When he finished he would always say: “How’s that for singing? That’s what I call real singing!”

The happiest memory of my life is the winter of 1885, which my Aunt and I spent with Grandfather in New Orleans. He had been appointed Commissioner to represent the State of Nebraska at the Cotton Centennial Exposition. I was a very small child, but as I read this booklet, which is his report, I recall vividly the events which he has recorded here, relative to the wonderful reception on March 11, 1885, for “Nebraska Day.”

From *The Times-Democrat*, leading New Orleans daily, I quote:

“The Nebraska reception was pronounced by all who were so fortunate as to be present last Wednesday, at the government building of the Exposition, to be the most elegant affair of the kind that has been attempted by any of the states represented, and every way in keeping with the beautiful exhibit that has excited unbounded admiration of all beholders, for the exquisite taste displayed in the decoration and beautiful designs executed with such artistic taste in the grains and grasses of this state.

“Well may the representatives of Nebraska be proud of not only their state, but the successful management of this gala day reception. Nebraska’s headquarters are as handsome as a lady’s boudoir, and the walls are decorated with bright-colored wallpaper, with a fringe of red and yellow corn. It is a matter of continued astonishment how anything so homely in itself, say the corn cob and grains of corn, can so deftly be made to serve the purpose of beautifying wall panels and posts. A platform had been erected, upon which were seated a large number of invited guests. A table upon which stood large vases of flowers occupied the center. In a large space in front of the platform were placed chairs and benches on which, long before the appointed hour for the opening of the ceremonies, an immense crowd gathered to listen to the eloquent words of the orator of the occasion, the Hon. J. M. Thurston. Just back of the audience sat the Mexican Typical orchestra which discoursed at intervals with such sweet music — there were exclamations of delight heard from both men and women. Just think of the number of good things that were served to refresh the inner man. Such as ice cream, delicious cake made from

Nebraska flour, sparkling cider made from the apples that grow in the state, and besides all this there were souvenirs for the ladies, in the shape of exquisite boutonnières made of fresh and natural flowers, small bags of corn, etc., etc.

"At the conclusion of the exercises Mr. Thurston, in behalf of Gov. Dawes, formally presented the Nebraska state exhibit to the Exposition management. Commissioner General Morehead, in behalf of the management, accepted the exhibit, and said: He felt deeply the honor of receiving the exhibit, but thought it sufficient to say no more than to return thanks for the great exhibit which speaks for itself, and which adds so much to the value of the attractions of the government building. He thought it also due to say that the especial credit is due Nebraska, and the opportunity for him to say so was a fitting one because at no time had Nebraska hesitated to come forward in doing everything in its power to make the exposition a success. He also thought it proper to return well merited thanks to Gov. Furnas, whose efforts in behalf of Nebraska deserved more than a passing notice, as too much cannot be said of the manner in which he has sustained the honor and dignity of the state which he represents."

I was always so interested in his undertakings and proud of his achievements. He published *The Nebraska Advertiser* in 1856. You may see a copy of it by calling at the rooms of the State Historical Society in the Capitol. He started *The Nebraska Farmer* in 1859, and was a contributor to newspapers all over the world.

My Grandfather did not hold a college degree, and he did not amass a great fortune, but he possessed unlimited riches of grace: kindness, generosity, integrity, and love for his fellow men.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of the Lord."