

September 16, 1944

[The Gill University Degree Commemorative]

FDR Speech File

Informal Remarks of the President
Made on the Parapet at The Citadel in Quebec, Canada
On the Occasion of the McGill University
Honorary Degree Ceremonies
For the President and Prime Minister Churchill
September 16, 1944, around 3.30 p.m., e.w.t.

May I say just a few words. This means to me another tie with people who are our neighbors, the kind of tie which is not official, something that goes back a good many years.

I always remember, a good many years ago, I was presented with an honorary degree by a little institution that was founded by George Washington. And when the president of that little college down in Maryland presented it to me with the words, "We hereby make you one of a company of educated men," I think that has meant almost everything to me, in recognition of the fact that I can speak and read and write English.

So many of our young men in the United States have come here over the years, that we are in closer touch with McGill than almost any other university outside the United States. I have met many Americans who attended the University, and that is another reason for feeling as I do, that this degree means that I am a fellow alumnus of the University.

So I am very grateful, and very happy.
(applause)

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL: Your Excellency, Your Royal Highness, Mr. President of the United States, my lords, ladies and gentlemen:

This is a high honor which I have received at your hands, which I greatly value. And it is hard to think of any more striking setting in which such dignities should be conferred. Wartime has justified you in making this new departure in creating these new degrees, but it is wartime that governs all our affairs at the present. I think this gathering here may well be a unique spectacle, and an episode by itself, in the long and honorable history of McGill University.

I need not say, also, how much I feel the compliment and pleasure of being associated in this honor with my august friend -- my dear friend and wartime comrade, where our friendship has grown under the hammer blows of war -- in being the recipient of all these academic distinctions. It has been an added pleasure and an added thrill to me on this occasion.

Your spokesman has been altogether kind in his statement of the reasons which have justified the University -- or held to have justified the University -- in taking this step, so far as I am concerned.

We have lived through a great age. We are living in a great age, of which it will always be said that this present generation, in Britain and in the United States, had cast upon them burdens and problems without compare in the history of the world. Under the severest stresses, and under the most hard and searching trials, they have shown themselves not unequal to these problems. On the contrary, they have triumphed over them, and thus cleared the way to the broad advance of mankind, to levels they have never yet attained, and securities of

which they will never be deprived.

(applause)

(the President and the Prime Minister spoke
after Honorary L.L.D Degrees had been con-
ferred on them)

(copies for Prime Minister Winston Churchill,
and F. Cyril James, head of McGill University)

Informal Remarks of the President
Made on the Parapet at The Citadel in Quebec, Canada
On the Occasion of the McGill University
Honorary Degree Ceremonies
For the President and Prime Minister Churchill
September 16, 1944, around 3.30 p.m., e.w.t.

1534

May I say just a few words. This means to me another tie with people who are our neighbors, the kind of tie which is not official, something that goes back a good many years.

I always remember, a good many years ago, I was presented with an honorary degree by a little institution that was founded by George Washington. And when the president of that little college down in Maryland presented it to me with the words, "We hereby make you one of a company of educated men," I think that has meant almost everything to me, in recognition of the fact that I can speak and read and write English.

So many of our young men in the United States have come here over the years, that we are in closer touch with McGill than almost any other university outside the United States. I have met many Americans who attended the University, and that is another reason for feeling as I do, that this degree means that I am a fellow alumnus of the University.

So I am very grateful, and very happy.

(applause)

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL: Your Excellency, Your Royal Highness, Mr. President of the United States, my lords, ladies and gentlemen:

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

My I say just a few words. This means to me another
the with people who are our neighbors, the kind of life which is
not official, something that goes back a good many years.
I always remember, a good many years ago, I was pre-
sented with an honorary degree by a little institution that was
founded by George Washington. And when the president of that
little college came in and presented it to me with the
words, "We hereby make you one of a company of educated men," I
think that has meant almost everything to me, in recognition of
the fact that I can speak and read and write English.
So many of our young men in the United States have
come here over the years, that we are in closer touch with
Hawaii than almost any other university outside the United States.
I have met many Americans who attended the University, and that
is another reason for feeling well, that this degree means
that I am a fellow citizen of the University.
So I am very grateful, and very happy.
(Laughter)

PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL: Your Excellency, Your
Royal Highness, Mr. President of the United States, my lords,
ladies and gentlemen:

This is a high honor which I have received at your hands, which I greatly value. And it is hard to think of any more striking setting in which such dignities should be conferred. Wartime has justified you in making this new departure in creating these new degrees, but it is wartime that governs all our affairs at the present. I think this gathering here may well be a unique spectacle, and an episode by itself, in the long and honorable history of McGill University.

I need not say, also, how much I feel the compliment and pleasure of being associated in this honor with my august friend -- my dear friend and wartime comrade, where our friendship has grown under the hammer blows of war -- in being the recipient of all these academic distinctions. It has been an added pleasure and an added thrill to me on this occasion.

Your spokesman has been altogether kind in his statement of the reasons which have justified the University -- or held to have justified the University -- in taking this step, so far as I am concerned.

We have lived through a great age. We are living in a great age, of which it will always be said that this present generation, in Britain and in the United States, had cast upon them burdens and problems without compare in the history of the world. Under the severest stresses, and under the most hard and searching trials, they have shown themselves not unequal to these problems. On the contrary, they have triumphed over them, and thus cleared the way to the broad advance of mankind, to levels they have never yet attained, and securities of

which they will never be deprived.

(applause)

(the President and the Prime Minister spoke
after Honorary L.L.D Degrees had been con-
ferred on them)

(copies for Prime Minister Winston Churchill,
and F. Cyril James, head of McGill University)

McGill University degree ceremonies, September 18, 1944

May I say just a few words. This means to me another tie with people who are our neighbors, the kind of tie which is not official, something that goes back a good many years.

I always remember, a good many years ago, I was presented with an honorary degree by a little institution that was founded by George Washington. And when the president of that little college down in Maryland presented it to me with the words, "We hereby make you one of a company of educated men," I think that has meant almost everything to me, in ~~the~~ recognition of the fact that I can speak and read and write English.

So many of our young men in the United States have come here over the years, that we are in closer touch with McGill than almost any other university outside the United States. I have met many Americans who attended the University, and that is another reason for feeling as I ^{do} ~~do~~ that this degree means that I am a fellow alumnus of the University.

So I am very grateful, and very happy. (applause)

Remarks of the Prime Minister:

Your Excellency, Your Royal Highness, Mr. President of the United States, my lords, ladies and gentlemen:

This is a high honor which I have received at your hands, which I greatly value. And it is hard to think of any more striking setting in which such dignities should be conferred.

~~War~~ War-time has justified you in making this new departure, *in creating these new degrees,* but it is war-time that

governs all our affairs at the present. [REDACTED]

Behind this gathering here may well be a unique spectacle, and an episode by itself, in the long and honorable history of McGill University. *PI* I need not say, also, how much I feel the compliment and pleasure of being associated in this honor with my august friend, my dear friend and [REDACTED] wartime comrade, where our friendship has grown under the hammer blows of war, in [REDACTED] being the recipient of all these [REDACTED] academic distinctions. It has been an added — *and* an added pleasure, *and* an added thrill to me on this occasion.

Your spokesman has been altogether kind in his — in his statement of the reasons which have justified the University, — or held to have justified the University, in taking this step, so far as I am concerned.

We have lived through a great age. We are living in a great age, of which it will always be said that this present generation, in Britain and in the United States, had cast upon them burdens and problems without compare in the history of the world. *and* Under the severest stresses, under the most hard and searching *trials*, [REDACTED] they have shown themselves not unequal to these problems. On the contrary, they have triumphed over them, and thus cleared the way to the broad advance of mankind, to levels they have never yet attained, and securities of which they will never be [REDACTED] deprived. (*applause*)