

1968 Unrest

Dedication Remarks

May 10, 1968

Dedication address

May 10, 1968

File → Student Union & Men's Dormitory #2

The feeling that I have at this moment is something that no one - absolutely no one - can possibly inherit or even attempt to mimic. I look at you out there facing me, I look at the distinguished guests behind me on the platform here, and then I look, disturbingly, at the image of the world, and I wonder. I wonder just how you really feel about our position in this chaotic society. I wonder if you think of the possible outcome of the world, and I wonder if you really think of yourself and your friend sitting next to you as I do. And when I wonder these things, I slump into a melancholy mood, a mood of my own, and I pray these words: (Let us pray):

Dear God: let thy mercy reigneth
over us all forever. Let thy strong arms
of protection gird us in the safety locks of
thy Kingdom, and let thy cloud of deliverance
take us each into your place of provided peace.

Amen.

THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR TERRY, MAYOR CARROLL, DR. MISHOE, OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, FELLOW COLLEAGUES OF DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE, AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE COME TO WITNESS THE DEDICATION OF OUR OWN STUDENT UNION BUILDING TO THE LATE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.: I beseech you at this time, to trace your minds and hearts with me as we move with our eyes of complete hallowness but yet filled to the brim with the love of humanity, brotherhood, looking at many things, and at the same time - OUR IMAGE.

The world is in an awful state today. Men of every race are fighting one another and men of the same race are fighting each other. Our sons, brothers, fathers, friends, are fighting in Viet Nam, trying to prove a mere "power" over someone else and we on the homefront - we, sitting watching television or playing cards, or "living it up" where our personal satisfactions are fulfilled to their brim, we push the dreadful thoughts from our minds that what we really fear most is man himself and that even a small remembrance of the promises of God might humiliate us, causing even more destruction and more violence - more corruptness and more searching for something that is already on the surface of the soil. FELLOW COLLEAGUES, what are we trying to unfold, I ask you? FELLOW AMERICANS, all over the land and country, what is this disease that is eating our common sense away and making us act as savages, heathens, and uncivilized human beings?

Think with me for a minute, will you? Innumerable times have I heard the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. say: "I have a dream today." And he went on to relate to us the boundaries of that dream both forcefully and unneglectingly. But with the passing of our great leader, is it up to us to cause his dream to end as did his physical appearance on this God-given soil? Is it not true, that we, too, have a dream, and though as dismal as it may seem right now, it can result into a Utopia for Delaware, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Georgia, Viet Nam? How the world could stand a dream coming to life now and man realizing simultaneously that God rules the world and besides Him there is no other.

I mentioned, before, the homefront. The homefront - Washington, D. C., Chicago, Illinois, Kansas City, Missouri - do I have to name more. You know what I am about to say and as needless as it may sound, the thought and principle of the matter are still there and when we resort to violence, we are throwing away our distinguishing factor that separates us from lower animal to higher animal. And when we allow these things to take place, we are just as guilty as the one who pierced Jesus Christ in the side and shot our great leader, Dr. King, in the neck. Is not the world aware that men do not have to die for someone else to say - "I am a part of the majority race?"

Violence is not the answer. I say over and over that peace can come in a different way and it is my utmost desire that you who are listening to me, wherever you may be, will heed the statement that violence does not have to be the means for gaining recognition. And we at Delaware State College, as we officially stamp our breath of love, peace, honor on this building, we will let it always stand as a symbol of the good things of life and that the world can attain peace in a sensible and historical way.

Our Student Union Building is symbolic of the loyalty that is to come for the Negro race also. This is loyalty to each other for if we must succeed, we must pull together. We have all walked down the halls of the interior of this building and we have sat and radiated beams of sunlight to each of us across the tables. We have held good times here, memorable times here, and finally it is a different kind of time that we will now hold and as we focus our minds into the future, we can picture a wonderful and different kind of

feeling that we will get, And I'd like to think of this feeling as not being the same for everyone, but on different levels where the initiator of all of them was the thought for world peace, void of the threat of violence, and filled with love for mankind. When this happens, many students will strive to be like the students of Delaware State College and many buildings like the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. STUDENT CENTER on our campus.

Then the world can shout praises of acceptance and joy and mankind will be on its way toward a richer and fuller life.

Somebody said to me, just a few days ago, something I'll never forget. The subject of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth came into a heated discussion as a group of young people gathered to discuss their version of "politics." And then Sunday morning while in church I heard the same story told a different way but with the same meaning. It seemed that a mad-dog had gotten loose in the neighborhood and everyone was told to stay inside for as you well know, mad-dogs are dangerous. But one lady, through carelessness, was bitten by the dog and was rushed to the nearest doctor for treatment. Before she reached there she began to have seizures and after getting to the doctor, he gave her an injection and told her he could not guarantee her that she would stop having seizures; she might even have one in a short while. It turned out that she did have another seizure and another, until finally she had to be rushed to the hospital. Several hours passed and the lady was still lying on the bed

asleep, and then all of a sudden she awoke. And as if she were in a trance, she motioned with her fingers, movements, as if she were dumb. The people in the room finally agreed that she was making "writing" movements so they gave her a pen and some paper. She began scribbling something on paper and as the people in the room peered curiously, they saw that she was writing names. And forgetting for the moment that she could not talk, they asked "what are those names for"? And she answered, as if she knew all along what was going on; "I'm writing down the names of the people whom I am going to bite next." She had been bitten by the plagues of this world that had contaminated her system and consequently, she was wanting to strike back. Is this what has happened to our world? Are we bitten by mad-dogs and filled with their venom? Are we writing down the names of people so that we can "bite back"? The conversation that we were in then came to a standstill and one by one each girl left. And as I sat there with a very dear friend, I looked at her. We were the only two left and I said. "Must we fight the battle alone?" And surprisingly enough, she answered the same thoughts that were in my mind: "You know", she said, "the world is in a bad shape. Sometimes I wonder if I really belong here and if so why." And immediately I identified with her and said: "You have a place here, just as I have a place and each day we are filling our place and we are known. We just musn't give up." "I won't, she said, "if you won't."

Those words meant a lot to me then and they mean a lot to me now. But the essence of that story goes much farther than that and we are to find the meaning in those words: I have a place here. Don't

give up. The world is continuously seeking people to lead in the right way and thereby maintain peace.

In closing, might I say a few words to the Administration now. This building that is being dedicated today is an attempt to unite the thoughts and cares of (1) Delaware State College Students (2) Alumni of our great school and (3) friends and passers-by who come in for a visit and stay a while. We do not propose to be the greatest school that has ever existed, but we do propose to be one of the greatest schools who will stand up for peace, nonviolence, and genuine love. We present to you today these our wishes and by them we hope to show to you, the country, the world, that this younger generation has a dream that is secondary to that of the late Dr. King, but equally as important for we both see eye to eye on the worldly issues. On our campus, his death WILL NOT be in vain and his teachings will never be bound in burlap bags and shipped to some unknown land. America realizes her situation now and we need people like Dr. King to help bring ~~us~~ out of this bondage. That is why I say to everyone, WE MUST FIGHT ON.

DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE
Dover, Delaware

INTRODUCTION OF MISS DORETHA WILDER

SPEAKER FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE STUDENT CENTER
AND DORMITORY NUMBER TWO FOR MEN

MR. HARDCASTLE, GOVERNOR TERRY, MR. TATE, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE, STATE OFFICIALS, FACULTY, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS:

WE ARE EXTREMELY PLEASED TO HAVE AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT
OCCASION, ONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICATIVELY TO STUDENT LIFE AND
DEVELOPMENT AT DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE.

SHE HAILS FROM ALICEVILLE, ALABAMA AND IS THE THIRD OLDEST OF TWELVE
CHILDREN. SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF MRS. LUCILLE WILDER AND THE LATE MR. SPENCER
WILDER, SR.

OUR SPEAKER FOR TODAY IS A SENIOR MAJORING IN ENGLISH. SHE IS A MEMBER
OF THE DEBATING CLUB, DRAMA GUILD, THE COLLEGE CHOIR AND ZETA PHI BETA
SORORITY.

AN HONOR STUDENT AT DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE, SHE WAS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE INTENSIVE SUMMER STUDIES PROGRAM AT YALE UNIVERSITY THE SUMMER OF 1967.
JUST LAST NIGHT, SHE PRESENTED A LECTURE IN DISTINGUISHED ENGLISH LECTURE
SERIES AT DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE -- ENTITLED "WORDSWORTH AND COLERIDGE
AND THE ROMANTIC SPIRIT."

AFTER GRADUATION FROM DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE IN JUNE 1968, OUR SPEAKER
PLANS TO ATTEND GRADUATE SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER TO DO FURTHER STUDY IN ENGLISH
LITERATURE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE AND PRESENT
TO YOU OUR OWN

MISS DORETHA WILDER, CLASS OF '68