

8 PM release, Tuesday, June 7, 1960

UMD NEWS SERVICE
RA 4-8801 Ext 210
June 6, 1960

U, A-1, B-C

DULUTH--"If literacy and learning are the crying need to buttress freedom and democracy in this world revolution of rising expectations, then universities are critically important," said retiring University of Minnesota President James Lewis Morrill at UMD commencement exercises Tuesday night.

Speaking to 334 UMD graduates, their parents and friends in the UMD physical education building, Dr. Morrill lauded the role of higher education in American history and the part it must play in shaping the future.

"It is in this larger "one world" in which distance has disappeared, and where anything that happens anywhere can affect us all for good or ill---in such a world you find yourselves and must play your part," Morrill told the graduates.

Morrill said despite the grave apprehensions of the moment, he has not lost hope for the future "for time runs against all tyrannies."

Dr. Morrill said "we are graduating together from the University of Minnesota . . . it has taken me 15 years to make the grade as against (your) presumable four."

Morrill reflected on his first visit to Duluth 15 years ago and how difficult it was to foresee the UMD campus then. "How grateful I feel, and every citizen of Minnesota should feel, for the generous interest and support of the people of this great northeastern

Minnesota region; for the foresight, the unselfish devotion and unremitting diligence of Regent Richard L. Griggs; for the understanding and support which the Minnesota legislators of the 8th district so steadfastly have shown---support not only for this institution but for the larger University of which it is a part and a source of strength."

Dr. Morrill lauded the generosity "of Duluth community donors and civic leaders whose gifts and cooperation have been indispensable to this development: the late S. R. Kirby, Mrs. Alice Tweed Tuohy, Mrs. John W. Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. Royal D. Alworth, Dr. William Bagley and so many others meriting grateful recognition.

President Morrill praised the leadership of UMD Provost Raymond W. Darland and "this distinguished faculty" to serve and to dignify the infinite potential of learning in the University of Minnesota at Duluth."

Morrill reminded the graduates of the "very real sacrifice . . . our fellow citizens, taxpayers, and families have invested in us. What we think and do and become must be the dividends on that investment."

Dr. Morrill praised the eminent record of Minnesota alumni and all alumni of higher education who have "proved that education matters. . . because it is concerned with that large word, "learning"--which transmits and continually adds to all that the generations have discovered and developed, dreamed and discerned. It is concerned thereby with all that we mean by civilization."

The President warned against the "paradox of a "one world" that is a "divided" one. . . with education as the first and foremost

need. It is in the development of human resources, in human capability that the American people have seen fit to invest--in young people like you---and the investment has paid high dividends. The fresh energies and trained intelligence of educated men and women are required to build a better world."

President Morrill officially retires June 30 after 15 years at the University of Minnesota. He and Mrs. Morrill will leave July 1 for New York where he will take over his new position as a consultant to the Ford Foundation later in the summer. On that date, O. Meredith Wilson, president of the University of Oregon, takes over as the new president of the University of Minnesota.

Following the granting of degrees and the swearing in of five ROTC cadets as commissioned officers in the U. S. Air Force reserve, a reception was held at Kirby Student Center for graduates, their families and friends.

Earlier in the afternoon, Dr. and Mrs. Morrill were honored by the UMD faculty and staff at a reception in the home of Provost and Mrs. Darland.