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Hon. Bernard S. Deutsch---

My interest in Hunter College grows out of my knowledge of the contributions your graduates have made for so many years in the public service, private enterprises, and the sphere of the home.

What I personally think of your graduates you can determine for yourselves when I say to you that I married one of them. And so I am bound to your college by a tie of affection.

You are about to be graduated into the society of educated men and women. Here in your school years at Hunter College you have received from the great city of which you are citizens the advantages of a higher education at the public charge. This was your right, and the city's duty. Free public education has been the cornerstone of democratic institutions. Without a citizenship fully informed on the problems and responsibilities of liberty through self-government, democracies cannot survive. In a great city such as New York, with a population larger than that of many European states, with problems imposed by the engineering complexities of modern building, transportation, and instruments of work and play, knowledge is indispensable equipment of every citizen. The city, in the name of the common good even more than for your private and personal benefit, aims to provide you with that knowledge. And not with knowledge only. It hopes that you have learned to think for yourselves, to analyze, to inquire, to judge impartially, freely, and independently, and with all the facts before you, on all the issues of our common life.

Unless you are able to do this, your education will have failed you, and you yourselves will have failed in your natural endeavor to realize for yourselves the ideal of a good life.

When you step from school into the wider world, you step from a scene in which you are protected in some degree from the consequences of your own errors into a scene in which you are penalized not only for your own errors, but for the errors, sometimes even for the crimes, of your fellow-citizens. To protect ourselves from such penalization is one of the prime objects of the democratic organization of the community. It is an aspect of the democratic view of life which recognizes that all human beings, regardless of creed or race or sex, are endowed with certain inalienable rights, and are equally entitled to life, to liberty, and to the pursuit of happiness. The function of your city is to secure those rights for you. The function of each and every citizen is to see that his city is so governed, so administered, that those rights will be secure for each and every citizen, that there shall be justice for all and privileges for none. You have heard in recent years many times about the New Deal. Let me remind you that the New Deal is nothing more than the old American ideal of Democracy under the new conditions of life of the great community built by means of industry and science. Long ago, when the old American ideal of equality and freedom was launched as a program of the national life, men realized that to maintain it was to wage a persistent war against the powers that prey, against passions of greed, prejudice, injustice and intolerance that ever lurk and pounce upon the liberties of the rank and file of human beings. Not alone eternal vigilance, also eternal labor, eternal battle are the price of these liberties.

Your city should be the guard and the palladium of these liberties. But a city can be only what its citizens make it. It can rise no higher than its accredited and

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representative leaders. It can stand no firmer than their loyalty and devotion to the citizens' welfare enable it to stand. The duties and responsibilities of leadership fall in the first instance on those who have had the benefits of free higher education, who have learned to know the meaning of a beautiful, a healthy, a well-governed city for the life of the citizens. Such duties and responsibilities of leadership devolve upon you, graduates of the Class of 1934 of Hunter College, as you step out from the protection of the walls of your Alma Mater into the risks and struggles of business and the professions. Love your city. Be loyal to her. Protect her fair name. Help to build her broad and safe and beautiful, that she may be a joy and a pride to you and a joy and a security to those that follow after you.

In the name of her Chief Magistrate, as well as for myself, I felicitate you on your privileges in the past. I congratulate you on your opportunities for the high service of citizenship in the future. We rely upon you to serve loyally the democratic ideals of our nation, by working together with those who seek to rebuild the chief city of our Republic in the forms of integrity, beauty, and nobility. I bid you go forth. I bid you be brave. You will be confronted on all sides with temptations to greed, to prejudice, to intolerance, to anti-democratic ~~injust~~ exploitation. Fight! You may lose, but dishonor is not in losing a bravely-fought battle for the right and the good but in a cowardly endeavor to flee from the inevitable warfare which a love of righteousness and goodness and freedom imposes. Fight, then. You are the bulwark of our city. Our hopes for you are high. And God speed you on your way.

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The President asked about the possibility of distributing Mr. Eisner's speech together with that of Dr. Lyons. It is attached. It could be mimeographed very quickly if the President wishes it done. Miss Egan asked whether Mr. Eisner's permission to do this had been obtained. The diplomas will not be given out for at least a week.

6/20/34

AHK

ADDRESS OF MARK EISNER, CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION, COMMENCEMENT
EXERCISES OF HUNTER COLLEGE, WEDNESDAY
MORNING, JUNE 13TH, 1934.

This is the season when from thousands of platforms throughout the nation speeches are being made, having for their purpose either to give sage advice to young people who are venturing forth into the arena of life, or merely to furnish a convenient means for public men to express their opinion on the problems of the day.

Presumably our young men and women who are graduating from college may be termed "educated youth" and especially in times such as these they look for a message of hope and good cheer. They are anxiously seeking the answer to a number of questions, such as: Where are the opportunities in America today? How can I obtain occupation which will afford me ability further to improve my mind and establish a home and a family? What is going to be done for the thousands upon thousands of youths wandering over the land from city to city who are today without ability to obtain occupation, however much they try? What is to be done for the millions whom a short-sighted policy is now depriving of education because funds which should be devoted to education are still being wasted in other directions? How can we take care of our millions of unemployed in a manner which will preserve their self-respect as American citizens? And finally, how can the general prosperity and welfare of our nation be restored?

The answers to these questions are not to be found in bombastic speeches about national ideals; magniloquent references to the past will not serve to give the farmer a livelihood or open the factory door to the reemployment of the worker. Criticism without suggestion will never finance states and municipalities so that schools that have been closed will be reopened.

Growth of population and facilities of transportation have clamped limits upon space and scientific and mechanical development have intensified almost without bounds the ability to produce, so that every day witnesses the increasingly successful drive of mankind to facilitate production and at the same time save labor.

Let us therefore remember that the nineteenth century is gone and with it a good deal of its economic theory and sociology.

When I read many of the declarations announced at gatherings of so-called leaders of thought and in many commencement addresses, I cannot help feeling that the people who utter them would accurately fit Augustine Birrell's description of the House of Lords - "They represent nobody but themselves and they enjoy the full confidence of their constituents."

The Constitution of the United States has justified the wisdom of its conception because it has withstood and is still sustaining the shock of economic upheaval. It is proving itself sufficiently broad to embrace measures of relief and of readjustment without doing violence to its essential fabric. It has

permitted the Federal Government to engage in activities which in the emergency have been beyond the ability of the states.

Those who decry the fact that the Federal Government has reached out to do things which may be properly within the province of the states ignore the fact that legislation usually springs from necessity; that the demand comes from the people. Unemployment creates a national emergency and therefore the people demand national action to correct it. Agricultural maladjustment is a national disaster and the people cannot look to the states for its correction. Overproduction of consumable goods gives rise to business panic and control of production must be managed nationally.

It is no fault of the national government that the states have fallen down in matters of relief. Congress would not have had to enact a kidnapping law if such a simple thing as the apprehension of criminals had been properly taken care of by the states. Nor would there have been a demand for Congress to pass laws to regulate security exchanges if the states had been alert to protect their own citizens and those of other states by adequate legislation. Finally, whether we like it or not, even if we think of it as a restriction of natural freedom, we must be brought to a realization that forces created by ourselves, yet stronger than ourselves, will compel this nation to plan its economy whether by control of production or by an extended method of processing taxation to accomplish the purpose of giving to the consuming public its physical needs and requirements and to gratify its right to leisure and cultural

development. This program even if inevitable, should be developed slowly and rationally.

The impatience which many people display because the general recovery program of the United States has not worked fast enough for them should not be permitted to be capitalized by those who for selfish ends would encompass its defeat irrespective of consequences. Those who expect that complete prosperity should already be here and are disappointed because it is not, remind me of the story of the Indiana farmer's son who went to read law in an office in a neighboring town. After he had been there for three days he returned home. His father asked him, "Bill, how do you like the law?" and Bill answered gloomily, "It ain't what its cracked up to be; I'm sorry I learned it".

To those who are carrying out the various plans of recovery and especially to those who may be working on outlines of a planned economy, one simple warning should be given. Everyone knows that it is a cardinal mistake in painting, for example, to forget the entire mass which constitutes the general subject which is being depicted by the artist's brush and to become interested in some detail which is worked over to an inordinate degree. The result is always poor, if not complete failure. It is easy to fall into the same mistake in executing a program as ambitious as the National Industrial Recovery Act, and that mistake has in fact been made in this connection and is now in process of rectification. Many instances are to be found where those in charge of the Recovery Administration have be-

come too greatly interested in details and have over-emphasized them to the detriment of the rest of the program. This is an error which must be carefully avoided in every step following a broad national scheme of recovery and economic stabilization.

I cannot help feeling optimistic when I view the prospects of the class of 1934 and compare them with 1932. You have seen many changes in the course of two years and I can safely say that they all work in the direction of stability and the maintenance of the fundamental American institutions and position. You will have the enviable privilege of participating in an era of great progress for the benefit of the major portion of our population. You will either agree with those in charge of governmental affairs or you may disagree. Let your approval not be servile and let your criticism not be merely obstructive. Government is entitled to co-operation in the accomplishment of good and it should welcome honest criticism of what is bad or debatable. The wisdom of the framers of the American constitution, in my opinion, is now demonstrated anew in another respect. Whereas it used to be my conviction that the election of a new House of Representatives and part of the Senate every two years was too frequent, I now can appreciate the wisdom of this provision. In critical times the people should be enabled to rid themselves promptly of legislators who are not mindful of the true needs of the Nation and who act for purely selfish or political motives, and in this respect I include members of the majority party and also those who

represent opposition for the sake of opposition. At the same time the populace is afforded an opportunity seasonably to endorse the acts of the administration in power and with equal promptitude to prevent it from a continuation of detrimental legislation. You are being graduated at a time when your opinions and your voices will carry weight if they are patriotically and disinterestedly formed and expressed.

(Conclusion impromptu)

Commencement

Mrs. Lewinson
circa 1929-1933 1.1

Commencement Address by the Hon. RUTH LEWINSON,
member of the Board of Higher Education,
Trustee of Hunter College.

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Newly-elected fellow alumnae of Hunter College -

This is the 13th of June and your lucky day. It is my lucky day too because I have now completed my thirteenth year of service as a Trustee of Hunter College, repaying to the City of New York in faithful service what I owe for the splendid education which the City has given me. You current graduates, together with those of us who have gone before, are the tradition of Hunter College. You are the link between the past and the future, with a debt of gratitude to pay and a service to render. All those who come after will look to you for encouragement and for the continuance of the fair name of Hunter throughout the land. You can never tell how you will be called upon to serve.

In 1933, when the class of 1873 of City College was to celebrate its 60th reunion and my good father called the boys together, as he had done regularly for sixty years, the valedictorian of the class of '73, then nearly eighty years old, said to me: "I am not going to the Alumni Dinner; I am just a 'has been' now!" my answer was: "John, you must go because the youth of today is going out into the world feeling disheartened and discouraged and if they see the ten of you, survivors of the class of '73, sturdy, alert and happy, and realize that you have weathered three panics, it will give them new courage."

This is not a gloomy world; it is a thrilling time in which to live and make a contribution. We who have gone before have made the way easier for any woman in a learned profession, provided that woman takes it in her stride, doing her work conscientiously and well, never striving to imitate the men, being herself at all times, neither imitating the masculine nor trading on her femininity. New fields have been opened, new opportunities offer, and there is always the prospect of a happy marriage and a full life as wife and mother.

Take your place in the world of affairs which welcomes you: allying yourself with such causes as make a genuine appeal to your intelligent understanding, never allowing yourself to be led as a sheep, but never joining the pack in full cry with hysterical abandon and unreasoned zeal. If your education has done anything for you, it will have made you tolerant of the views of others, not only in spiritual matters, but in world affairs. It will have trained you to think clearly and to express yourself, not in empty catch phrases, not with a view to occupying the limelight, not set on destroying what generations have evolved, but always with a high degree of reason, restraint and good taste.

Government is the business of the governed as well as of those in office. Take seriously your civic responsibility and participate in the management and control of civic affairs.

Women made a strong and long fight for suffrage, but having had it granted them, they have never made the fullest use of their new power. The average citizen of to-day, is, because of economic stress, because of increased leisure, and because the radio has brought government into his home, far more civic conscious than ever before. The field of political economy is everybody's playground to-day, and the social sciences have enlisted the interest of countless thousands who formerly were content to go on from day to day scarcely aware that there was such a thing as government which was worthy of their attention. The awakened civic consciousness is itself a good result of hard times. Formerly Kings and cabinets made governmental changes; to-day the people themselves in trade associations, in organized groups and by their representation in international conferences have brought about much that is vital in the "new deal". Young men are appointed to high places in the affairs of state. Yours is a great opportunity, living as you do at a time when years are not alone synonymous with wisdom, when youth is no longer a handicap. Be a participating citizen.

Give back to the City in service as a good and active citizen what it has generously given you in free education. Give back with us to the College in loyalty what it has given you in patient guidance and learning.

Character and Culture

By

ALEXANDER LYONS, M.A., Ph. D.

TO THE
GRADUATES OF HUNTER COLLEGE
JUNE NINETEEN THIRTY-FOUR

YOU

I wonder whether you have thought
In moments deep with insight fraught,
How rich you are in gift divine
To wing your soul to heights sublime.

Vast ages contribution brought
Unto your making to be wrought,
That ultimately you might stand
The master-work of Heaven's hand.

Great things by you have been achieved,
You've conquered joys, you've pains relieved.
And yet far greater goals await
The soul that soars to Heaven's gate.

God's bounty ne'er has reached its end,
To each it doth vast riches lend,
As each on spirit's wing may try
To loftier heights of worth to fly.

Such are you, divine heir of God,
A soulful seed grown in earth's sod.
Grow ever more in grateful grace,
Reflecting thus God's smiling face.

DR. ALEXANDER LYONS.

Speaking at the exercises of graduation of Hunter College, at Carnegie Hall, June 13th, Dr. Alexander Lyons of the Eighth Avenue Temple, Brooklyn, said in part:

Never has woman had a greater opportunity and privilege than she faces today. The world is in transition. Many problems are thus projected into our lives. We must have a new economic order. Selfish competition must yield to social cooperation. We are part of an organic world-order from which we must not and cannot separate ourselves.

There must be a new motivation of ethics and morality. Fear of punishment and expectation of material reward must be replaced with something better. Fear leads to criminal cleverness. Conduct for the sake of reward improperly interpreted conduces to commercialism. We shall need to give larger place in our ethical life to the inspiration of admiration and emulation. True worth ultimately wins.

Religion is suffering a deplorable slump. The Church needs to be revitalized. There is too much mechanism, ceremonialism and creedalism, with the result that sanctity has been displaced by sanctimony and superstition. Religion must become a compelling consciousness of the desire of man to emulate what he has good reason to believe is the highest conception of God.

The prevalence of persistent peace must be secured to the world. The insanity, futility and superfluity of war is now generally recognized. And yet the world is insecure with mutual suspicion. The presence and exhibition of the naval fleet in New York Harbor signifies that we do not consider the world safe and must be prepared for a possible outbreak of war. Accordingly I am more depressed than stimulated

when I contemplate the enginery of warfare upon which is lavished such vast expenditure of scientific achievement and material means sorely needed for other purposes in a progressive civilization.

Nationalism has become an exclusive, domineering insularity. It must receive a new connotation and expression. It is becoming increasingly an organized selfishness wherein, as in Germany, a spurious racialism and the assertion of brute strength are trampling under foot many of the most precious attainments and achievements of history. Nationalism must be made to contribute to international humanitarianism. Otherwise it will spell the doom of human kind.

These and many allied problems confront woman today with a rare opportunity and privilege. We have too long had a man-made civilization. It must now be supplemented with a contribution of the world's women.

In this situation the educated woman must be especially active and contributive. She is the product of a long history into which have entered rich elements of ideal aspiration and practical achievement. This she has reinforced with the attainments of years of studious application under the inspiration and direction of highly competent instructors. With this inheritance and cultural conquest she links the possible power of an irresistible personal charm. But this is insufficient. Educational culture and personal charm must be supplemented and crowned with positiveness of moral character fundamental to which is a compelling sense of responsibility for a proper employment of one's powers in the utilization of one's opportunities. In other words, the educated woman should be practically interested in some form of religious identification and effort. I care not for the name. There is inspirational dynamic value in every form

of church aspiration as long as it is sincerely and seriously motivated by a desire to conform human conduct to what our best intelligence believes to be the noblest conception of The Supreme Being. Such a construction of her culture commits the educated woman to service unto the realization of a better and happier world.

To such commitment every graduate of our great Hunter College should feel called and consecrated. It is not only a debt to her Alma Mater, it is the repayment of an obligation to the community, the country and through these to humanity.

Abundant encouragement awaits her effort. One of the greatest contributions to the cause of peace was made by the impulse furnished by Baroness Von Suttner's remarkable book, "Ground Arms." The salvage of human life has had vast historic addition from Florence Nightingale. The realm of economics has received substantial enrichment from Alice Webb. The practice of medicine has been immeasurably aided by the genius of Madame Curie. And in the sphere of higher social achievement in American life what wealth of stimulus lies in the examples of a Jane Addams, a Frances Perkins and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt who might loiter in the lap of luxury but prefers even the strenuousness of self-sacrificing beneficence. With such examples of womanly capability what might the powerful combination of culture and character of the college graduate not accomplish if properly applied!

According to Biblical story man's world found its completion through God's creation of woman who was placed at his side. Her place is still at his side as inspirer and as contributing helper. In cooperative combination they will hasten the oncoming of God's Kingdom of Righteousness in a world of greater material and moral worth for each and all of God's human children.

Copies of this pamphlet without cost upon application to

RABBI ALEXANDER LYONS, Ph. D.
225 Lincoln Place Brooklyn, N. Y.