



Department of Justice

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RESPONSE BY
ATTORNEY GENERAL NICHOLAS deB. KATZENBACH
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
MAY 30, 1965

Chancellor Halsey, President Littlefield, members of the graduating class, and ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of Mr. Warren and Mr. Cousins I want to thank the Trustees and faculty of the University for this very great honor.

I have not "World Enough and Time" - if I may borrow Mr. Warren's title - to say more than a word to the members of the graduating class about what I think should be the meaning of their degrees in their future.

You will forget most of the words that are spoken here today. You may forget much of what you have learned in your classes. I hope, however, you will always think of your degree as a well earned key to the doorway of civilization. It is a key that means that you have learned not knowledge but inquiry.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said that "to have doubted one's own first principles is the mark of a civilized man." What I hope your degree will always signify to you is the obligation to question, to refuse the easy answer, the pat phrase, the bland dogma, and the intellectual tranquilizer.

Your education has opened new worlds to you, and an infinity of new ideas to pursue. Pursue them, but always with a grain of suspicion, a slight distrust, and a certain doubt.