

ADDRESS BY
GENERAL MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY
AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA CLUB OF WASHINGTON
FORT McNAIR OFFICERS' CLUB, WASHINGTON, D. C.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1956 -- 8:00 P. M. (EST)

THE ARMY AND THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Ladies

GENTLEMEN, IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO JOIN THIS

GATHERING OF ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, A

SCHOOL WHICH HAS PRODUCED SO MANY DISTINGUISHED

AMERICANS, AND WHICH HAS MADE SUCH AN IMPRESSIVE CON-

TRIBUTION TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF AMERICAN LETTERS.

MY LAST DIRECT ASSOCIATION WITH YOUR UNIVERSITY WAS

ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT

DARDEN IN JUNE OF 1947. ON THAT VERY IMPRESSIVE

DAY, I WAS PRESENT AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

MILITARY ACADEMY, AND THE VISIT AFFORDED ME AN OPPOR-

TUNITY TO RESEARCH A BIT INTO THE HISTORY OF THE RELATIONS

BETWEEN WEST POINT AND VIRGINIA. I FOUND A SURPRISING

NUMBER OF POINTS OF CONTACT. FOR ONE THING, WE SENT

YOU AN EXCHANGE STUDENT, ONE OF OUR "BAD BOYS" WHO

TRAINING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

IN PREPARING FOR MY VISIT TO VIRGINIA IN 1947, I
FOUND IN OUR WEST POINT LIBRARY AN INTERESTING EXCHANGE
OF LETTERS BETWEEN EX-PRESIDENT MONROE AND LT. COLONEL
SYLVANUS THAYER, THEN THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WEST POINT.
MONROE AT THAT TIME WAS A REGENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
AND HE WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED WITH THE DISCIPLINARY
CONDITIONS EXISTING THERE. IN A LETTER DATED
NOVEMBER 1, 1826, HE WROTE THAYER TO OBTAIN COMMENTS
FROM HIM AS TO THE APPLICABILITY OF SOME OF THE DEVICES
EMPLOYED AT WEST POINT FOR GOVERNING THE STUDENT BODY
AT CHARLOTTESVILLE. THE GENERAL OBJECT OF HIS
INQUIRY WAS TO OBTAIN SUGGESTIONS AS TO WAYS OF KEEPING
"THE INSTITUTION IN GOOD ORDER, THE YOUTH STEADILY TO
THEIR STUDIES, FREE FROM GAMBLING, INTEMPERANCE, AND

CERTAIN OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS SUCH AS THE
REQUIREMENT TO VERIFY THE PRESENCE OF STUDENTS IN
THEIR ROOMS, INSPECTIONS TO DETERMINE THAT THE
GAMBLING AND IMPROPER ENTERTAINMENT WERE NOT GOING
ON, AND PROPOSED PLACING MUCH OF THE STUDENT ADMINIS-
TRATION IN THE HANDS OF SENIOR STUDENTS. I WOULD
SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE COLONEL DID NOT SEEM ENTIRELY
SURE THAT THE METHODS WHICH HE RECOMMENDED WERE
A SURE-FIRE CURE FOR THE PROBLEMS WHICH PRESIDENT
MONROE REPORTED. AT THE END OF HIS LETTER HE
ADDED A PARAGRAPH THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING,
"IT IS ALSO SUGGESTED WHETHER IT MAY NOT BE ADVISABLE
TO APPLY TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE FOR A LAW IMPOSING
restrictions
INSTRUCTIONS ON TAVERN KEEPERS AND STORES WITHIN A
LIMITED DISTANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY." I AM NOT AWARE

THE ARMY, AND OFTEN HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR LIVES TO
WIN ITS BATTLES. ALSO, I WOULD MENTION YOUR
CONTRIBUTION DURING WORLD WAR II IN TRAINING ON ^{the} THIS
CAMPUS OVER 4,000 OFFICERS IN CIVIL AFFAIRS AND MILITARY
GOVERNMENT DUTIES. TODAY, AS YOU KNOW, THE ARMY'S
JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL SCHOOL IS LOCATED AT
CHARLOTTESVILLE.

APART FROM THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION OF
GRADUATES TO ITS RANKS, THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA AND
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN GENERAL SUPPORT
THE ARMY IN AT LEAST THREE IMPORTANT WAYS. IN THIS
AGE OF TENSION, NATIONAL SECURITY RESTS HEAVILY ON ALL
KINDS OF LEADERSHIP, OF WHICH THE MILITARY IS ONLY ONE.
AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, INDIVIDUALLY AND
COLLECTIVELY, AID THE ARMY, FIRST, IN PROVIDING

DEFENSE. WHEN ^{an} ~~THE~~ EMERGENCY ^{such as} OF PEARL HARBOR
AROSE, THIS RESERVE OF MINDPOWER ^{is} ~~WAS MADE~~ AVAILABLE
TO SHIFT TO RESEARCH IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY
REQUIREMENTS.

OUR INSTITUTIONS OF ~~HIGHER~~ LEARNING DESERVE THE
HIGHEST CREDIT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN THIS FIELD UNDER
THE STRESS OF WAR. THEY NOT ONLY DEVELOPED NEW
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, BUT THEY ALSO INTENSIFIED
THEIR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT THE SAME TIME. THEY
MADE AVAILABLE THE ACCUMULATION OF SCIENTIFIC
KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY STOCKPILED IN THE FACULTIES
AND IN THE LABORATORIES OF THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

AS A MEASURE OF THE SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTION OF
THE COLLEGES, I WOULD CITE ONE ITEM FROM THE PRESIDENT'S
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BOARD REPORT OF 1947. THIS REPORT

INDIRECTLY ASSIST THE ARMED SERVICES IN DISCHARGING
THEIR DEFENSE ROLE. THE PRESERVATION OF SECURITY,
WHETHER THROUGH THE DETERRENCE OF WAR OR THROUGH
VICTORY IN UNDETERRED CONFLICT, REQUIRES TRAINED
LEADERS IN ALL WALKS OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE. IT IS IN
THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH MEN THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF
VIRGINIA AND ITS ASSOCIATED INSTITUTIONS PLAY THEIR MOST
IMPORTANT PART.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO
NATIONAL SECURITY IS WELL ESTABLISHED IN THE PAGES OF
HISTORY. THE RELATIONSHIP BEGAN TO BE NOTED AT THE
TURN OF THE 19TH CENTURY. THEN IT WAS SAID THAT
"THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO WAS WON ON THE PLAYING FIELDS
OF ETON," AND THAT "THE BATTLE OF SEDAN WAS WON BY
THE PRUSSIAN SCHOOLMASTER." THE CONNECTION BETWEEN

MUST HAVE MEN AND WOMEN TRAINED TO FACE THE HARD
FACTS OF THE FUTURE WITH A STEADY AND UNFALTERING
COURAGE. SUCH MEN AND WOMEN SHOULD BE THE
PRODUCTS OF OUR UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. A NEW GENERA-
TION MUST RISE TO FILL THE THINNING RANKS OF THE ONE
WHICH HAS FIRST COME TO RECOGNIZE AND TO COUNTER THE
COMMUNIST THREAT. THE SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND TALENTS
OF THIS NEW LEADERSHIP MUST, IN LARGE PART, BE FOSTERED
BY UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

AS CHIEF OF STAFF, I OFTEN FIND MYSELF ON A SOAP-
BOX ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN THE ROLES AND MISSIONS OF
THE ARMY TO OUR PEOPLE. THIS TASK IS NOT AN EASY
ONE BECAUSE OF THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE ARMY
AS IT EXISTS TODAY. BUT I HOPE, AT LEAST, THAT I
MAKE ONE POINT AFTER ENUMERATING THE MAGNITUDE OF
OUR TASKS ABOUT THE WORLD. NAMELY, OUR NEED FOR