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REMARKS OF EDWARD K. CRATSLEY DELIVERED AT
MEMORIAL COLLECTION SERVICE FOR COURTNEY SMITH

January 19, 1969

EACH OF US MUST THINK OF COURTNEY SMITH IN OUR OWN WAY. HE MEANT MANY DIFFERENT GOOD THINGS TO US WHO KNEW HIM AND WHO WORKED WITH HIM. HE ALSO REPRESENTED MANY GOOD THINGS TO THOSE WHO SAW HIM IN LESS DAILY WAYS AND KNEW HIM ONLY AS THE PRESIDENT OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE. HE WAS A DEDICATED EDUCATOR BELIEVING FIRMLY AND PASSIONATELY IN THE RATIONAL PROCESS ACCOMPANIED WITH PATIENCE AND COMPASSION.

I FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS MY OWN THOUGHTS. RATHER LET ME READ SOME OF COURTNEY SMITH'S OWN BASIC BELIEFS AS HE EXPRESSED THEM AT THE TIME HE WAS INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE IN OCTOBER 1953.

HIS FIRST SENTENCE WAS "I STAND HUMBLER BEFORE THIS TRUST, AND PLEDGE WHATEVER IN ME THERE IS OF GOOD TO THE FULFILLING OF IT . . ."

HE ALSO SAID, "I PERSONALLY FIND IT HELPFUL, IN THINKING OF WHAT 'EDUCATION' SHOULD BE, TO FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT RATHER THAN ON THE SOCIETY IN WHICH HE IS TO LIVE, THOUGH THE SOCIETY MUST APPEAR SOMEWHERE IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE PICTURE. I FIND THE PREOCCUPATION WITH THE SOCIETY IN AND FOR WHICH WE EDUCATE A TOPHEAVY CONSIDERATION. I FIND IT MORE USEFUL, IN TRYING TO FIND THE WAY FROM DAY TO DAY, TO THINK OF 'EDUCATION,' QUITE SIMPLY, AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SELF FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS. THIS, I MIGHT ADD, IS NOT EASY IN A SOCIETY, IN A NATION, INDEED IN A WORLD OF NATIONS WHERE THE OPERATING PRINCIPLE, WITH

ALL ITS INSISTENT PRESSURES AND ALL ITS SUBTLE BLANDISHMENTS, SEEMS RATHER TO BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS FOR THE SAKE OF THE SELF. I SIMPLY BELIEVE --- AS INDEED QUAKERS HAVE ALWAYS HELD --- THAT THERE IS SOMETHING OF GOD IN EACH OF US TO WHICH WE CAN AND MUST APPEAL. AND IF THAT SOMETHING IS OF GOD, THE APPEAL TO IT, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS MANIFESTATIONS, CANNOT BY ITS VERY NATURE AVOID LEADING TO ITS COROLLARY --- 'FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS'."

AND FURTHER, "ACTUALLY A COLLEGE IS, BY ITS VERY NATURE, THE MOST CONSERVATIVE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, THE MOST LIBERAL FORCE IN A FREE SOCIETY: CONSERVATIVE INSOFAR AS IT FULFILLS ITS RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESERVING AND PASSING ON THE INHERITED WISDOM OF THE AGES, LIBERAL INSOFAR AS IT FULFILLS ITS RESPONSIBILITY OF CONSTANTLY REASSESSING THE OLD, JUDGING WHAT ENDURES, DISCOVERING AND TESTING AND EVALUATING THE NEW. IT IS, BY ITS VERY NATURE, BOTH THE INSTRUMENT FOR PRESERVING THE STATUS QUO AND THE INSTRUMENT FOR DESTROYING IT. IN A COLLEGE THE TWO FUNCTIONS ARE INSEPARABLE, AND A COLLEGE ONLY BECOMES DANGEROUS WHEN ONE FUNCTIONS WITHOUT THE OTHER . . .

"GIVE US, (THE COLLEGE) I ASK YOU, YOUR FAITH IN OUR GOOD WILL, YOUR EAGERNESS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE REGARD TO BE OUR MISSION, YOUR PATIENCE IF IN OUR QUEST FOR TRUTH WE NOW AND THEN OPEN THE DOOR TO AN EMPTY CLOSET. . GIVE US THESE THINGS, AND WE IN TURN WILL GIVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC, PERHAPS EVEN GARRULOUS, WILLINGNESS TO ACCOUNT FOR OURSELVES, TO TELL HOW OR WHY WE TAKE THIS OR THAT STAND. WE SHALL MAKE MISTAKES, BUT WE WILL DEFY ANYONE TO CITE A BODY OF MEN AND WOMEN MORE DEDICATED AND SEEKING TO SEEKING, SO THAT WE CAN FOLLOW, TRUTH."

AND IN CONCLUSION, "FOR THE HUMAN BEINGS WHO COMPOSE THIS COLLEGE ARE DEDICATED BEINGS, CONVINCED THAT THERE IS NOTHING MORE WORTH THE DOING THAN TRYING TO HELP YOUTH TO A CAPABLE AND GIVING MATURITY, FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SELF --, FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS."

AND TWO ADDITIONAL SENTENCES TAKEN FROM HIS REPORT OF THE YEAR IN 1966, "ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DO WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH. BUT NOT TO TRY TO DO MORE THAN WE ARE NOW DOING WOULD BE THE REAL DEFEAT."