

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

DIRECTOR OF THE NEWS OFFICE

SPEAKERS AT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PRESIDENT COURTNEY SMITH

January 19, 1969, afternoon

John M. Moore, Professor of Philosophy and Religion

Robert M. Browning, Chairman, Board of Managers

J. Roland Pennock, Professor of Political Science

Claude C. Smith, Member of the Board of Managers, former Chairman

Judge Emory H. Niles, Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore
City, Retired

Wolcott Street, Kersting, Brown and Company

Eric G. Curtis, Headmaster, George School

Martin John Moynihan, British Consul General, Philadelphia

Joseph B. Shane, Vice President of Swarthmore College

Memorial service held in honor of Dr. Courtney Craig Smith in Clothier Hall, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, January 19, 1969, commencing at 3:00 p.m.)

MR. MOORE: I shall read two passages from the Psalms. The first Psalm is 130, and then the familiar and well loved 23rd Psalm.

"Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If Thou, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the Lord; my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning. I say more

I say more than they that watch for the morning, let Israel hope in the Lord.

For with the Lord there is mercy and with him plenteous redemption."

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

He leadeth me beside the still waters; he
restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Yea, do I walk in the valley of the shadow of
death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.

Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest the table before me in the
presence of my enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth
over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever."

Browning
MR. ~~BIDUNING~~: Courtney Smith was a person

we all aspired to be. His grace of manner, his calm, his
composure, his dedication, his energy, these all protected
and colored our lives at Swarthmore. His loss is so hard
to accept because it is so untimely and because it seems to

have been so unnecessary.

It is hard to think of a person more dedicated to non-violence and a person more sympathetic and more honestly concerned with any suggestions or criticisms or complaints. And yet he had to face an abrupt confrontation supported by force.

Courtney was our leader for almost fifteen years, and yet he was much more than that. Courtney was a true and rare leader amongst all men. He was truly a man of art, a man of abilities, and a man of conscience. He was modest, and yet he insisted on achieving his goals. He did so much more for us than we could ever do for him.

Courtney's sense of fair play and his constant efforts to resolve problems in a sympathetic, patient, and one human being to another human being fashion are well known. His dedication to excellence and his insistence on its achievement are likewise well known.

His concern for those less privileged and his many achievements and his continuing efforts in their behalf are all a matter of record. These things we must continue, and we have Courtney's inspiration as our light and our strength as we do so.

MR. PENNOCK: About a year ago, on the occasion of his retirement, Clare Wilcox spoke of Courtney Smith as the builder. I am sure he meant to refer by that term to much more than a builder of buildings, important as though that is. Courtney was a builder of institutions and a builder of men. He exemplified and held before each one of us the highest qualities of human excellence, of principle in action, of integrity, of academic achievement, of human sympathy and understanding, and of selfless devotion to Swarthmore and its ideals, ideals he not only helped us move toward but ideals the very substance of which he helped us build in each of us.

This devotion enabled him to overlook our human failings even when we failed him.

We have lived in the presence of a great man and as an institution is the shadow of a man, we shall continue to live in his shadow. We shall miss his uplifting presence but let us hope we can continue to build toward the ideals he helped establish within each of us.

MR. SMITH: Following fifteen years of close association, I can say that he was a good man in our midst. He was righteous, he hungered. He hungered after righteousness. He strove for what was right and just. There was

vilification, no bitterness, and no hatred. He loved people. People to him were more than just a group, more than a card or an index number in the catalog, they were equal. He felt their hurts, he shared their hopes and their aspirations.

With all this, he was a realist. He knew mankind's weakness, mankind's wrongness, but never have these clouded or obscured his ability to see the goodness and the strength in individuals and groups of individuals.

He appealed throughout to this goodness and strength in individuals and encouraged its growth.

He will be greatly missed but his example, his influence and his spirit will continue with us.

We, as you I am sure who knew him, join in humbly giving thanks that his life, or 15 years of it, was spent with us. We all pray that God will bless and comfort his sister and brother and his mother, and particularly Betty, and the children, Craig, Lee and Dabney.

Judge Miles
~~MR. [Signature]~~

On this occasion, which cannot be anything but sad, I should like to say a few words regarding Courtney Smith's influence upon the Rhodes Scholarships.

I appear not in any official capacity but

as one of the senior scholars in this country and particularly as a friend of Courtney Smith.

In my capacity as friend, perhaps you will pardon me for a few words about how much I valued his friendship. The words that you have just heard from the other speakers do describe the man that I knew.

I had the rare experience of determining-- perhaps I should say leaping to the conclusion--on the first time that I saw him: That is a man that I should like to have as my friend.

I have made other judgments which have not been fulfilled as that one was.

As a friend, he embodied all of the qualities that you have heard mentioned by others. I value the thought that we were close friends and I am filled with sorrow that that friendship must now end. It is irreplaceable.

On behalf of the Rhodes Scholars, you may remember Courtney came here at the height of the McCarthy storms. He had built upon the work that Frank Gaylord had done, the work that John Nason did afterwards, and Courtney set himself to continue, improve, build upon the work of those two men, and he succeeded.

In the direction of the Rhodes Scholarships, he not only organized an office and a system which dealt efficiently, he obtained the friendship of the academic community in this country, the confidence of the community. He guided us through the stormy weather that has succeeded the McCarthy era.

I think it entirely fair to say that under his guidance the Rhodes Scholarships have achieved a public acclaim higher than they ever had and an academic acclaim in this country also higher than they ever had, and an academic acclaim in England higher than they ever had. It was largely to his credit that it was he who through the pitfalls, the shallows, the storms that he has lived through, and now I regret have ended, that the scholarships have reached their present situation. All of those scholars owe him a great debt.

May I return for a moment to a personal note? The loss which we feel today is shallow compared with the loss which his family has suffered. May we hope that the memory of this great, true man, his whole person, his spirit, and all that he did, will be of some comfort to them.

We in this audience mourn the death of Courtney Smith. I mourn with you.

MR. WOLCOTT STREET: Those of us who knew Courtney Smith will never forget him. Something of his ideals, his character, of what he stood for, lives on in every one of us.

If, in the future, his character and his ideals, the things he stood for, continue to be reflected in our deeds and our lives, then the world will be a better place to live.

MR. *Eric Curtis*: Sadness and joy are often intertwined and I stand for I don't know how many in this audience who were not as close to Courtney Smith as his many colleagues and close friends who are here today, and I do want to say on behalf of those who come from that outer circle the sympathy that we feel for you and the love that we want to share with you.

But I also want to say to you let us go back to the Psalm that was read , "They that dwell in the house of the Lord." This occasion is also an uplifting one. Life is a very precious thing, and the occasion of living and going about on this dear earth of ours, however much we may spoil it, is a tremendously exciting and wonderful thing. But we all know that what really counts about life

has something to do -- one word would be -- with trusteeship, with stewardship, with knowing that we have one life and that it is possible to live it to the fullest for purposes much bigger than one's self. I think it is in the way of trusteeship that we dwell in the house of the Lord.

And from what I know of Courtney Smith and of some of the experiences that I have shared, that he has had, I have been so impressed with the lively and creative trusteeship that marked him, with the ~~stewardship~~ that he exemplified to us all, and I give thanks for it and I am very joyful about it.

Martin J. Moynihan, British Consul General
MR. WILLIAMS: As has been said, Dr.

Courtney Smith was a distinguished Rhodes scholar. And I have been asked to come ~~here~~ by Sir Patrick Dean, the British Ambassador, to pay tribute to all that he did for the Rhodes Scholarships and Marshall Fellowships and say how much Her Majesty's Government valued his contributions to the cause of international understanding.

MR. ~~S~~^J. B. SHANE: At the risk of repetition, but with the hopes that a summary might be helpful: Rarely in 52 years of life does one person have so great effect

upon the lives of those immediately about him, upon those in his profession and upon those whose lives he has touched in an ever-widening circle of activities and responsibilities.

Nature endowed Courtney generously, and we honor him for those many talents, a keen analytical mind, a most attractive personality, and amazing ability to evaluate people and situations, gifts too numerous to tabulate.

But we honor him most for those traits of character which a man develops from within himself: Purposefulness in life, self-control, complete steadfastness to whatever was the job on hand, so that no detail was too small or trivial in order to accomplish a perfect result, as humanly possible. And a devotion to his work, which enabled him to give himself to a 9:00 a.m. to a 1:00 a.m. basis, seven days a week, year after year. He gave his all to whatever he did. Yes, even on the golf course.

We have come together to pay tribute to the memory of Courtney, to acknowledge our debt to him and our loss at his death, the regret that all that he might still have contributed will be more bearable if we can use his example to reaffirm our dedication to the values we hold uppermost and to bear in mind the three words which in my estimation best express his creed of the Quaker heritage:

Strive for excellence. Strive for excellence.

We close this meeting for worship in memory of Courtney Smith, with a deep sense of acknowledgment of all he meant to us, and the feeling that it has been good to be here. And Betty, Craig, Lee, and Dabney, you will find courage within yourselves.

May I ask that the next three or four minutes might be dedicated silence in memory of Courtney?

(Several minutes of silent tribute.)

(Adjourned.)
