

TALK TO FRESHMEN - SEPTEMBER, 1942

I. We are in the <sup>second</sup> first year of the war - daily becoming more serious.

1. It is increasing the problems of everyone of us. *Confusing us.*

2. Each of us here has a very personal stake in what goes on.

a. Brothers, sisters, fathers, relatives, husbands, and sweethearts on the battle front or potentially near the front.

b. The war is affecting our personal habits - eating, traveling, recreating, *planning*

c. It is affecting our outlook upon life.

3. Have you made a self examination to determine what is happening to you?

a. Do you feel that what you feel, think, and do as an individual is tremendously important?

*(1) We are being ordered around. (2) Washington is making decisions. (3) Makes me feel less important. (4) But this is time of group centered activity.*

b. Do you feel that it is just as important, even more so, to make long-range goals for yourself?


(1) Do you find yourself entertaining the thought: "Oh, what's the use; everything's topsy-turvy; why plan, for the army or the war plant will get me sooner or later anyway."  
Dangerous thought - unworthy thought.

(2) Military leaders and national political leaders have, as never before, been preaching the values of college education.

(a) Reserves in deferred classifications.


*omit* (1) All branches - (Assembly October 17th 64)

(b) President, Secretary of War, and others - "Stay in school until called" - somewhat paradoxical.

*(1) New policy now skills training area of education.*  
(c)  Modern war shows

a) Value of trained intelligence

b) Need for diversified abilities broader than spread in college.


*self obligation: prepare for war - not life career*  
(3)  National leaders, especially Roosevelt, Hoover & Wallace are talking about winning the peace.

(a) Build a just world - ideas and facilities.

(b) Requires thinkers, leaders, educated people.

A) Military is drawing off intellects from nation, from high schools and colleges.

B) Plans for continuing education after war - *get all you can?*

(4)  As much a patriotic duty to train one's intellect, clarify philosophy, study as to engage in any direct war activity.



(a) Up to individual to use every minute and all his energy until called for service.

(b) The poster "Uncle Sam Needs You" means you in more than one way.

(c) Do you find your attitudes and emotions changing?  
Intolerance, Vindictiveness, Hate.  
Winning with loyalties to things, American's treasure.  
Hating ideas that destroy.

(f) Do you find yourself facing everyday activities more seriously?  
Curtail social activities; direct them into contributing ones?  
Willing to forego some, not all, pleasures?  
Wanting to work with others helping along?

(g) How about your attitude toward study?

(1) A dry book or assignment seems remoter now.

(2) Basic purpose behind study - must be served else one is a slacker. *Not the book that's important, but what's happening when book is open.*

NOTE: Yes, life is more serious, questions and uncertainties abound, yet down inside it may be more satisfying.

II. You have actually entered a new phase of your life.

1. Adult in college - society of adults - students and faculty.

2. We depend upon students to control and keep traditions.

a. Lawns

b. Beaches

c. Parking lot

3. Freedom - cooperation; group regulation; group thinking; student-faculty organization to make things go.

III. Characterize college as friendly place.

1. Symbolizes democracy - respect and recognition. Smiles must go two ways.  
Yours to develop and continue tradition.

2. College may be friendlier this year.

a. Fewer faculty - lost 18

b. Fewer students - lost 1000 since 1940.

c. 15 faculty members in armed forces

8 faculty members in U.S. Government service.

*omit*

16 40



- d. Over 300 former students now commissioned officers and hundreds more in service.

NOTE: Yes, San Diego State College is friendly and it knows what friendship means and how valuable the opportunities to make friends is.

These men and women in service are fighting for what you are now getting.

Many of them will return to civilian life; many will never return, and we now have 12 former students in that group.

Our task is to carry on worthily.

IV. May I indulge in just a few admonitions?

1. Get started right now - with first assignments.
2. Organize and budget your time.
3. Get a proper balance of work and recreation, tipped more toward the work side.
4. When any question bothers you seek help.
5. Find some definite organized way to make a direct personal contribution to the war effort now.
6. Keep ever alive in your minds and imaginations the image of the person you want to become.
7. *Do your induction is anticipated work hard until the last minute - reform*
8. Life is serious - but let's smile.

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