



news from the
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN REGINA CAMPUS

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(ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 2:15 P.M., CST, FRIDAY, MAY 17)

(ADVANCE)....REGINA, MAY 17 - The following is the text of the report to be given by Dr. J.W.T. Spinks, president of the University of Saskatchewan, at the fourth annual spring Convocation of the University of Saskatchewan Regina Campus, Friday, May 17.

(ADVANCE)....Eminent Chancellor: Last fall, I had the pleasure of giving the Convocation address at your first fall Convocation. At that time I reviewed briefly the changes that had been taking place in the University with respect to numbers of students, new programs and changes in organization. I mentioned the size of the proposed seven-year building program and the related decision to embark on a capital fund campaign for \$11 million. I am glad to say that in the ensuing six months the campaign has got off to a good start and we already have over \$2.5 million pledged. Quite apart from the actual monetary value of this support, the fact that industry and the public think enough of us to support us in this generous way is very encouraging. We were particularly pleased that Mr. Gibbings, President of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, agreed to be National Chairman, that Mr. Furlong agreed to chair the Regina Committee and that Dr. Leslie agreed to head up the Alumni Committee. We are most grateful to these gentlemen and to their hardworking committees.

....MORE (ADVANCE)

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During the winter, the reorganization of the University was formally recognized by the passing of an amended University Act. Among other things this puts into legal form the two-campus structure of the University and sets up a General University Council whose chief function is to coordinate the academic programmes of the two campuses. Incidentally, the changes made were all at the request of the University and do not alter in any way the so called 'autonomy' of the University. The government did not agree to the proposed addition of faculty members to the Board and students to the Senate, so we shall have to take another look at this.

Reverting back to last fall's very pleasant Convocation and the accompanying opening of the Library building, it seems in retrospect that it was just the lull before the storm. A few days later we were in the midst of a hot dispute on government control of University spending which kept students and Faculty in a turmoil most of the winter. I don't propose to go over the turmoil in all its gory details today. Enough to say that when the budget was brought down in March there were several informational sub items but only one item to be voted on. A good many people have subsequently wondered just what all the fuss was about. It's still a good question but I don't propose to try to answer it completely until the smoke has all cleared away and the ashes are quite cool. It is clear now that what happened to us was just one aspect of a nation-wide problem - how to get the relatively enormous sums of money requested for higher education from the legislature - how to give them the necessary amount of information without weakening the essential autonomy of the University.

....MORE (ADVANCE)

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I think we have made a good start towards an acceptable solution. The final solution will depend in no small measure in the support which we receive from our alumni and friends.

Referring again to the new structure of the University, the working out of this structure will require the closest cooperation of all the constituent parts and a sympathetic understanding when dealing with new problems which will arise.

I should like to thank Principal Riddell and Principal Begg for their cooperation during the past winter and to assure them at the same time of my warmest cooperation and support. The University can look back with some pride on its accomplishments during the past nearly sixty years. With the various parts of the newly structured University working together, the University of Saskatchewan can look forward to a still more rewarding future.

(END ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 2:15 P.M., CST, FRIDAY, MAY 17)