

NOTES ON PROCEEDINGS OF THE 89TH CONVOCATION OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

April 25, 1958

Convocation consists essentially of address by Lawrence A. Kimpton, Chancellor of the University of Chicago -- obviously a major theme is October 4, 1957 -- the advent of Sputnik. the importance of education *vis-à-vis* pressure and competition from Russians has made us aware that education has suddenly become important and educators suddenly have an audience hanging upon their words.”

- Great concern is expressed that “there is something wrong with the American high school.”
- The second even more important weakness of the American high school is the fault ... of the American university. In the year 1955, there were 3,402 public high school teachers newly certified in the State of Illinois. Of these, approximately 1,600 were graduated from our four State teachers colleges ... but only 75 of the 3,402 were graduated from the University of Chicago, and of these 75, only 4 were in the field of science. I wonder if Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Cornell do much better. Our distinguished state universities, of course, have a far more creditable record, but even here I must ask the question: how much time and thought do the really able scholars of the State universities give to the deliberate and thoughtful training of high school teachers?”
- Ultimately it is Kimpton’s position that we are concerned with training specialists holding Ph. D. degrees in the universities rather than generalists who could focus on the needs of the community and of the schools which would be associated with a masters degree. He expressed concern that research for Ph. D.’s are ends in themselves since most Ph. D.’s “although trained in research never do any further research but devote the rest of their lives to teaching.” In other words, we should “give the masters degree real integrity and honor as a teaching degree in high schools and colleges and keep the Ph. D.’s for those who are to advance knowledge.”

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- The university, since its origins in the mists of the Middle Ages, has had the difficult role to play of being not *of* this world but very much *in* it. It must be free, detached, objective and even disinterested, but its life and its activities must be directly relevant to the affairs of man.”