1971

Speaking of President Starcher

University of North Dakota

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SPEAKING OF
PRESIDENT STARCHER
A COLLECTION
OF
QUOTATIONS
ABOUT
DR. GEORGE W. STARCHER
PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
GRAND FORKS
1954-1971
A 'MOST HAPPY' SELECTION

I consider Dr. Starcher's selection a most happy one. He has a splendid background in educational work and I am sure he will meet completely the great opportunity and challenge that awaits him here. —President John C. West, commenting on the selection of Dr. Starcher as his successor, May 1954.

At left:
Dr. Starcher, Autumn 1954
Photo by Nagle Studio
VISION TO SHARE

During the ten months you have been on campus, we have already sensed your strong leadership qualities. We have seen you move to encourage more of the gifted, earnest students to attend the University. Your efforts to upgrade the levels of student accomplishment have already been noted in a dozen various ways. We have been impressed with your concern about turning out educated persons, not just narrowly trained specialists. We have noted also your efforts to develop a stronger faculty.

You have also given to some of us the feeling that you have thought long and well about the functions of a University. The sideshows you quickly distinguish from the main tent and they are not allowed to encroach. This morning and in future years we will come to share your vision of what you would have the University be like a decade hence. —Dr. W. E. Koenker, "Welcome on Behalf of the Faculty," inaugural ceremonies, April 20, 1955.

RAPPORT WITH STUDENTS

Our University is very fortunate in having an administration and faculty who believe in working closely with the student. President Starcher has taken a keen interest in preserving and advancing this cooperative attitude which makes our campus strong and unified. Several times he has come before the Student Council in an effort to gather student opinion about policy and future plans for the University. We students appreciate this friendly spirit which draws us closer to our school. —Thomas W. Sullivan, president of the student body, inaugural ceremonies, April 20, 1955.

HE REFINED THE HIGH STANDARDS

We find a great satisfaction in this recognition of the contributions of President Starcher in maintaining, and further refining, the high standards, the challenging ideals, that have made the University of North Dakota truly a shining "Beacon O'er Our Western Land."

President Starcher, a comparatively new man among us, is a man whose zeal for our University has fired all its friends with a new and deep desire to help champion its march forward into an even more brilliant and useful future. —M. M. Oppegard, editor and publisher, Grand Forks Herald, introducing President Starcher as guest of honor at meeting of Newcomen Society in North America, Grand Forks, July 24, 1958.

NEW PEAKS OF EXCELLENCE

I have been told in most glowing terms of the tremendous success of the 75th Anniversary Conference and Convocation which has brought great prestige to the University of North Dakota. I commend President Starcher and congratulate him on his latest effort in bringing the University forward to new heights. Thus, as Mrs. K. B. Tiffany has phrased it, the Conference created an entire "range of peaks of excellence." —Chester Fritz, University benefactor, December 1, 1958.
THIS UNIVERSITY STANDS THE TALLER

As we tilt over immensely complex and combustible issues, it becomes ever more important that we fall back upon the steadying traditions of our society—the time-honored, tested, true traditions of the open society—the right to speak unmuzzled. It is this principle that President Starcher has upheld and for which this University stands the taller. Criticism may abound from the stout defense of free expression, but fortunate is the community to have such a defender. —Malcolm Charles Moos, president, University of Minnesota, commencement address, University of North Dakota, June 2, 1968.

STATESMANLIKE LEADERSHIP

The Award is given to recognize and honor University administrators and governing boards for outstanding contributions to the cause of academic freedom. President Starcher has earned the Award this year through his steady and statesmanlike leadership of his community in the best tradition of academic freedom. —Excerpt from citation accompanying Alexander Meiklejohn Award, presented at national convention of American Association of University Professors, Minneapolis, May 2, 1969.

FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

Congratulations to President Starcher on receiving the Alexander Meiklejohn Award from the American Association of University Professors. President Starcher has always stressed that the academic freedom of thought and expression also requires academic responsibility. I am pleased that a North Dakota university president has been honored. —William L. Guy, Governor of North Dakota, May 2, 1969.

A NATIONAL EXAMPLE

The award Dr. Starcher has received is one of the most coveted honors to be attained by a university president. The Meiklejohn Award is the Pulitzer Prize of the academic world. It is to the credit of our state and our University that we have set a national example of the kind of environment in which learning can flourish. —Professor Benjamin Ring, past president, UND chapter of American Association of University Professors, May 2, 1969.
ONE IN TWO THOUSAND

► It has been said that the chief function of an academic administrator is to further the goals of his university. A primary goal is that of a free and unfettered pursuit of knowledge. The selection of President Starcher from the two thousand university and college presidents in the United States for the Meiklejohn Award strikingly demonstrates to the University community and to the state at large that the goals of the University of North Dakota are in most capable hands. This award is a great tribute to Dr. Starcher. It is a most heartening recognition of the academic atmosphere which pervades the University over which he presides. —Dr. John S. Penn, chairman, University Senate, University of North Dakota, May 2, 1969.

ENHANCES REPUTATION OF UNIVERSITY

► Alumni are proud that the University has a president of the high quality of Dr. Starcher, who in so many ways has advanced the improvement of higher education. His authentic concern for excellence, including devotion to a vigorous intellectual environment, enhances the reputation of our University. —J. Lloyd Stone, executive vice president of the Alumni Association, May 2, 1969.

NORTH DAKOTANS CAN BE GRATEFUL

► Dr. Starcher has, ever since he came to UND, tried to give to the students an involvement and a voice in the affairs of the school. He has also refused to over-react to trivial incidents and to outside pressure. North Dakotans can be grateful for his good work. —Lois Trapp, editorial column in Enderlin Independent, May 8, 1969.

HE HAS EARNED OUR RESPECT

► As members of his faculty, we do not need to elaborate upon the reasons why President Starcher deserved the Alexander Meiklejohn Award. We know these reasons best by having served as teachers at this University under his able leadership. His consistent defense of academic freedom has been appreciated by all of us. As a stalwart defender of free speech and thought at our University, he has earned the recognition of this important national organization. Further, he has earned our respect and gratitude as a courageous administrator at the University of North Dakota. —Resolution adopted by the University Senate, May 22, 1969.
**ANSWERED WITH PATIENCE**

- President Starcher has answered his critics with patience, and has tried to explain to them why he did what he did. Dr. Starcher's national awards adequately display how fortunate this University is in having a president of his calibre.
—*Editorial, Dakota Student, October 31, 1969.*

**MARVELOUS MAN, MARVELOUS JOB**

- He is an honor to us as a Board, to the State of North Dakota, and to higher education everywhere. He is an outstanding educator and what more can be said. He has courage and clairvoyance, wisdom and world-awareness. In short, he is a marvelous man who has done a marvelous job.
—*State Board of Higher Education, motion accepting Dr. Starcher's announcement of retirement, Valley City meeting, January 22, 1970.*

**ABLY, WITH DIGNITY**

- Taciturn and reserved, President Starcher has been forced by the nature of his position to give leadership in education circles and to stand up to the buffeting of the legislative process. He has done both ably and with the dignity befitting his office.
—*"Taciturn Leader," editorial concerning Dr. Starcher's announcement of his plans to retire, Mandan Pioneer, January 26, 1970.*

**ANY STUDENT, ANYTIME**

- You'll notice that on the campuses which are experiencing trouble there seems to be a lack of communication between the president and the students. That isn't so at UND. Mr. Starcher is really a tremendous president. He'll talk with the students —any student—anytime—informally or formally. The students know this and they know he'll listen to them and work for them.

**A MAN OF LIGHT**

- Orientation has been defined as the ascertain-ment of one's true position with reference to new ideas. Under the leadership of President George W. Starcher, The University of North Dakota has climbed to its true position as the major university of the northern plains. With the foresight of Dr. Starcher, this University is continually a citadel of new ideas and a primary reference for those who seek the way to truth.

President George Starcher has made possible the University orientation. Today you have opportunity to profit from the position, the progress, and the continuing light which emanates from his leadership. We invite you to share with us an appreciation for his dedication, his humaneness, his greatness.
—*Student-Faculty Committee on Freshman Orientation, dedication page of orientation booklet, August 1970.*
COLD STATISTICS, WARM QUALITIES

Consider the impact of the leadership of President Starcher. In the relatively short time—historically speaking—since he has been here, the enrollment has more than tripled, the size of the faculty has tripled, the value of the physical plant has increased fourfold, and the appropriation fivefold.

More than half of the more than 30,000 students who have been graduated from the University since its founding have received their degrees at commencement exercises at which President Starcher officiated. In other words, the graduates since 1954 exceed the graduates during the combined terms of six presidents and two acting presidents who preceded Dr. Starcher on this campus.

These are cold statistics. But I do not need to remind this audience of the warm, human qualities of this man who has influenced and even inspired so many of us. —Thomas J. Clifford, dean, College of Business and Public Administration, Founders Day address, University of North Dakota, March 11, 1971.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RELATIONS

Your seventeen years of leadership united students, faculty, alumni and citizens in expressing and realizing the best aims in higher education. Your successful administration has been characterized by consideration and respect for human relations. Your defense of academic freedom and freedom of the academic press have been recognized regionally and nationally as a model of courage and devotion in the resolution of conflict and the promotion of educational objectives. —Citation accompanying honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, University of Ohio, April 16, 1971.

TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

You have done a great job. You are a tough act to follow. —Thomas J. Clifford, president-designate, in response to President Starcher’s congratulatory telephone call from Bismarck after the State Board of Higher Education announced its selection, January 13, 1971.
THIS COLLECTION

of quotations was published on the occasion
of the Community Recognition Dinner
honoring President and Mrs. Starcher,
University Center, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, May 7, 1971.
President Starcher retires
June 30, 1971, in accordance
with a Board of Higher Education policy
on mandatory retirement of administrative personnel at the age of 65.